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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X.—NO. 38. WEEKLY EDITION. JULY 26, 1873.

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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AN OLD ROAD.

A curve of green tree-tops,
And a common well below,
And a winding road, that dips and drops,
Ah me! where does it go?
Down to the lovely days
Goes that familiar track,
And here I stand and wait and gaze,
As if they could come back.

Somewhere beneath that hill
Are children's running feet,
And a little garden fair and still,
Were never flowers so sweet!
And a house within an open door,
What sun therein I know—
O! let me enter nevermore,
But still believe it so.

Up this oft-trodden slope
What visions rise and throng!
What keen remembrances of Hope
Like shattered all along!
These flowers that never grew,
Boom they in any clime?
Can any Spring to time renew
What died in that sweet time?

Here I believed in fame,
And found no room for fear;
Here sprang to meet what never came;
Here loved—what is not here!
Not worth a moment's pause
Seemeth that fallen grass,
Not worth a sigh, a glance, because
Life would be full of them.

The child in the fairy tale
Dropped crumbs as he passed,
So pierced the darksome forest-veil
And found his home at last;
I, in the falling day,
Turn back through deeper gloom,
By scattered memories feel my way
Only to find—a tomb.

For there they lie asleep,
Eyes that made all things sweet,
Hands of true pressure, hearts more deep
Than any left to beat;
A world where all was great;
Paths trodden not, but seen;
Light streaming through an open gate—
The world that might have been!

Pictures, and dreams, and tears—
O Love, is this the whole?
Nay, wrap your everlasting years
About my failing soul!
The lightest word you spake
Beyond all time shall last—
Thus only sleep before they wake—
In Love there is no Past!

—*M. B. Smedley.*

COUNTRY CHILDREN.

Little fresh violets
Born in the wildwood,
Sweetly illustrating
Innocent childhood!
Say as a modest eye,
Brown as a berry,
Free as the mountain air,
Hopping and merry.

Blue eyes and hazel eyes
Peep from the hedges,
Shaded by sun-bonnets
Frayed as the edges
Up in the apple trees,
Heedless of danger,
Manhood in embryo
Stares at the stranger.

Out in the hilly patch,
Seeking for berries;
Under the orchard tree,
Tramping the clover blooms
Down from the grasses;
No voice in hinder bosoms
Dear lads and lasses!

Dear little innocents,
Born in the wildwood:
O that all little ones
Had such a childhood!
God's blue sky bent over them,
God's green beneath them;
No sweeter heritage
Could we implant them!

—*Rural New Yorker.*

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

CARE WITH SITTING HENS AND EGGS.

"S," in the *Poultry World*, relates his experience in exercising great care with his sitting hens, calling this the "new fangled plan," in contradistinction to the more common plan of leaving the hens to take care of themselves after being supplied with eggs. About March 15 he gave five light Brahma hens 12 eggs each, using hatching boxes 12 by 14 inches, with six inches of moist earth in the bottoms, and the eggs placed there nicely cut log from the barn, and well sprinkled with sulphur. The eggs had been kept carefully wrapped in papers, and on putting them under the hens were washed in tepid water, and afterwards turned each morning. The hens were also turned off the nests each morning, and shut out until they had eaten, dusted, watered, and cleansed themselves. When the weather was cold the eggs were covered while the hens were off with a bit of cloth: and before incubation commenced each hen was dusted with sulphur. Two of the sittings were hatched off on the last week. Result: Three eggs were broken by the hens, seven were unfertile, three are not accounted fore ("rotten probably), and forty-seven hatched all right and strong.

"S." was rather fussy in some things, especially in taking the hens off, filling the boxes with moist earth, turning the eggs and covering the hens with a thin cotton sheet. It would be well to keep the eggs clean, to wash them when necessary, and frequently to sprinkle the dampers when they are shut, as mentioned above was evidently surplusage. Discreet care is commendable, but to turn the eggs by hand when the hen will do it anyhow is a little too much trouble, besides, when a hen has food, water and dust at command she may be trusted generally to get off and on to suit herself. But to keep the eggs clean and to sprinkle them occasionally is no doubt important.

TO PRESERVE FRUITS FOR YEARS.

Take wide-mouthed bottles and fill them with currants, cherries, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries or blueberries. Cover the mouths with thin muslin, and place them in a kettle of warm soft water, not above needle in the bottles. Place it over the fire, and boil for twenty minutes after the water first bubbles. Now take them out and cork them tightly, putting sealing-wax made of rosin and tallow (two parts rosin to one of tallow) all over the rowroot and two caps of sifted flour, roll them out thin, place them in buttered tins, and bake in a slow oven.

RECIPE FOR MUFFINS.

One pint of milk, one pint of flour, two eggs and one pinch of salt. They will be very light, and should be baked in small tin cups or iron corn cake pans, in a hot oven.

ABOUT PICKLES.

An exchange says: To keep them from becoming soft use alum. To a gallon of vinegar add one ounce of powdered alum. If the vinegar is put in bottles, tightly corked and set in a kettle of cold water, with hay or straw between them to keep the bottles from knocking together, and allowed to remain over the fire until the water boils, then removed and kept in the kettle till nearly cool. The vinegar will keep perfectly clear when used for pickles, but it should be added to them cold. Shreds of horse radish root will prevent all pickles from molding.

BOILED BREAD PUDDING.

Crumb your stale bread into a pudding pail and cover with sweet milk, and set by the stove to warm and soften. Then to every quart of milk add two well-beaten eggs, a half cup of sugar, and a handful of raisins or sweet dried fruit of any kind. Do not have your pail full, as it needs some room to rise. Put the cover on tightly, set in boiling water, and do not allow it to stop boiling till done. If you try that once you will never make a baked pudding again. Serve with cream.

INDORSING FOR FRIENDS.

My neighbor is in active business and I am only a farmer out in the country, with a little at interest, bringing up and educating a family of children. He comes to me, holding out a note, large for me to sign, saying, "I wish you would just write your name on the back of this; I need the money very much; it will be a great accommodation to me, and you will only have to write your name." My answer is: "My friend, do you really understand what my position would be befo·e the world and the law if I were to do this? I should instantly proclaim that from a state of complete independence, and without the slightest reason for a similar favor from you, and for no consideration whatever, except friendship, I have agreed to take upon myself the risk of your business, but with the difference against me, that if you lose I lose, and if you gain I do not. I share in your losses and not in your profits. But not only this; I should affirm before the public that you are responsible when I really know nothing of your circumstances, and in so far help you to deceive others. I give you a false credit. In short I do that which no honest man, true to himself and to his family, can do and be blameless. Will any right-minded, real friend, with this view of the case, ask of me such a possible sacrifice ?"—*Country Gentleman.*

AN ILLINOIS STOCK FARMER.

Here in Vermillion county a single individual owns and manages 7,000 acres, while other farms of still greater magnitude may be found in adjoining counties. Mr. John Sidell, of the township bearing his name, has a domain of 7,000 acres. The tract is six miles long, and varies from one to two miles in width. Running through its entire length is the Little Vermillion river, skirted for two miles with beautiful groves and clusters of thickets. Three thousand acres are in a meadow, and as much more in blue grass pasture, and the remaining thousand is devoted to corn.

Roaming over the great pasture are fifteen hundred cattle, a thousand of which will shortly be shipped to New York city. Mr. Sidell has also about three thousand hogs on the place. The corn he raises, together with thousands of bushels that he buys annually, is consumed on his farm. He employs about forty farmhands and fifty others, has nine comfortable tenement houses upon the plantation.

There are no public roads through his premises, but Mr. Sidell says that it is a high joy of itself. Wagon roads run through the pasture from one end of the domain to the other, with gates at the fence crossings. The farm abounds in springs, and is well drained throughout. The pasture lands are high and undulating, dwells in a brick mansion of size and surroundings corresponding with the general magnitude of his comprehensive undertaking.

COOL WATER FOR THE HARVEST.

One of the greatest discomforts of the harvest field, where ice is not used, is the mawkish warmth which the drinking water acquires, after being carried out into the field. This may be easily obviated, however, and a cool draught always be had. When the water is carried in large jugs, all that is necessary is to envelop them in several folds of coarse cotton or linen cloths, kept constantly wet, as evaporation of the moisture in the cloths keeps the vessel perfectly cool, and just in proportion as the evaporation be fast or slow. Thus the evaporation of ether or other exceedingly volatile substances in a draught is sometimes employed as an experiment to freeze substances in the hottest weather. And the experiment may be made, in a degree, by successively wetting the linger and holding it up in the breeze.

If the harvest force is large and a barrel be used, it should be more thickly enveloped with with cloths, and whatever vessel be used, it should be carefully shaded, but is better if exposed to the air. Water that has once been used for drinking, enough should be poured on the cloths to keep the evaporation perfect.

PASTE THAT WILL ADHERE TO ANY SUBSTANCE.

Sugar-of-lead, 720 grains; and alum, 720 grains; both are dissolved in water. Take 2½ ounces of gum arabic, dissolve in two quarts of warm water. Mix in a dish one pound of wheat flour with the gum water cold, till in pasty consistence. Put the dish on the fire, pour into it the mixture of sugar of lead, &c., and boil it well all the last week. Result: Three eggs were broken by the hens, seven were unfertile, three are not accounted fore ("rotten probably), and forty-seven hatched all right and strong.

DISEASE AMONG THE APPLE TREES.

About this time of year, says the Rochester *Union*, there is always a "scare" about the apple crop, which is generally made out of a whole cloth for the benefit of growers and dealers, to be reaped at the expense of consumers. The Lockport *Journal*, however, makes some statements that appear to be well grounded, and as Niagara is one of the largest, if not the largest, apple growing county in the State, they are of interest. It says a disease is prevailing in the orchards there that has destroyed many trees. It manifests itself in a curling of the leaves, the bark dries and the body of the tree dies upward about a foot from the ground; the disease also extends into the roots several feet, and kills the whole tree. The bark lightens and peels off only to the tree, and does not crack nor peel. There seems to be no preceptible cause for fatality among the apple trees; no grubs can be found nor anything else that would be likely to destroy. About fifteen trees in a splendid orchard belonging to Mr. George W. Tower, in the town of Porter, have been attacked with this disease, and about half of the trees are fifteen to twenty years old. Several other instances in various towns are mentioned where fine healthy apple trees have been destroyed, in like manner.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

Potato Salad.—Slice two or three cold boiled potatoes; mash fine the yolks of two hard boiled eggs; mix with them pepper, salt, vinegar, mustard, and oil to your taste. Dip into this preparation the potatoes. Chop fine a few pieces of pickled cucumbers or cabbages, three tablespoonfuls of cream or new milk, and a small teacupful of flour, with a little salt. Drop in spoonfuls into hot fat, and fry of a light brown. Or else cook them on the griddle-iron like buckwheat cakes, and we can assure you that *pater familias* will see that a large extent of sweet corn is planted for the next season, because he will relish the dainty dish so highly. When baked new potatoes, corn fritters, he will frequently think that hog and hominy may be set aside for another day.

STIR THE SOIL.

Stirring the soil during the growing season cannot be done too often provided it is not wet enough to pack. As an antidote to droughts it is unrivalled. A man who can stir the soil every day about his plants and trees, can virtually defy a drought. The operation seems to create moisture, or at least to attract it both from the subsoil and atmosphere. The weeds, of course, have no chance under such a system, and the moisture they would require and take goes to a purpose "where it will do most good." Horse-culture is the cheapest mode, but in gardens too small for horse-culture, hand-culture must be depended on. The difference in effect between frequent and occasional stirring will astonish those who have not before observed it. The man who has plenty of muscle and time, and little or no money to spend on fertilizers, will find that frequent stirring of the soil will go a long way to supply the absence of fertilizers. In fact, culture without manure is worth much more than manure without culture. When both can be discreetly applied it is admirable, but when a choice must be made, I shall always choose culture.—*N. Y. Observer.*

TRANSPARENT PUDDING.

Warm half a pound of fresh butter, do not allow it to melt. Mix with it half a pound of powdered loaf sugar, and stir them together till they are perfectly light. Add a small nutmeg, grated, or half a large one. Beat eight eggs as light as possible, and stir them gradually into the butter and sugar. Finish the mixture with sufficient extract of roses to give it a fine flavor. Stir the whole very hard, butter a deep dish, put in the mixture, and bake it half an hour in a slow oven. You may also bake this pudding in puff paste.

BUTTERMILK MUFFINS.

One quart of sour buttermilk, one teacupful of sour cream, two eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, a little salt, flour enough to make as thick as pound cake. Bake in muffin rings placed upon tins in the oven, from twenty to thirty minutes, according to the temperature of the stove.

ARROWROOT BISCUITS.

Rub together three-quarters of a pound of sugar and the same weight of butter, until they rise, beat three eggs well and mix with it, then stir in two cupfuls of sifted arrowroot and two cups of sifted flour, roll them out thin, place them in buttered tins, and bake in a slow oven.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 24, 1873.

General J. B. Kershaw, of South Carolina, and several other prominent citizens of that State, arrived in town yesterday. To-day they called on the Attorney General, and had an agreeable conversation with that official on the condition of affairs in South Carolina. They assured him that the most perfect peace and tranquility now prevailed in South Carolina, and the best of feeling existed between the whites and blacks, although, of course, differing in politics. The Attorney General said he was satisfied that the Ku-Klux were pretty effectually broken up, not only in South Carolina, but in Mississippi and other States where they had flourished. The delegation then suggested that the government could do no better thing to strengthen itself with the people than to set free the Ku-Klux offenders now in prison and quash the indictments yet pending in the Federal Courts in South Carolina. There are about thirty Ku-Klux now confined in the Albany penitentiary and about five hundred Ku-Klux indictments yet pending. Gen. Kershaw said that since the date of the President's proclamation, in 1871, there had not been, so far as he was advised, a single Ku-Klux outrage. The Attorney General declined making any promises, but said the government was disposed to be merciful, and the probability was that if no further outrages occurred those indicted would never be brought to trial, and those in the penitentiary would in due time be pardoned. The delegation left for New York to-night and will probably call on President Grant at Long Branch.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25, 1873.

Escaped Lunatic Recaptured.

Mary Harris, the girl who killed the Treasury clerk, Burroughs, some years ago, because he would not marry her, and who made her escape from the Insane Asylum near this city about three weeks ago, has been recaptured in Philadelphia and brought to-day back and lodged in her old quarters. It has been ascertained that she was assisted in her escape by an employee of the asylum. She does not show any evidence of insanity, and it is probable that some efforts will be made to have her legally discharged from the asylum.

Too Dangerous.

The Signal Service Bureau, after agreeing to detail an employee to go on the proposed transatlantic balloon voyage, reconsiders its intention, although twenty of the employees in different parts of the country have applied for permission. General Myers, Chief of the Bureau, has changed his mind because of the great danger.

Interesting Correspondence.

The daugter of John J. Crittenden furnishes to one of the Sunday papers unpublished correspondence between General Winfield Scott and Mr. Marcy, Secretary of War during the Mexican war, also a letter from General Scott to Mr. Crittenden. The letter was written in 1846, during the Mexican war. General Scott had made repeated requests to be permitted to proceed to Mexico and assume command of the army, but authority was not given by the President (Polk), and Gen. Taylor, instead, was appointed. Scott writes to Mr. Crittenden denouncing Secretary Marcy and charging that the Democratic administration was actuated by political motives in thus ignoring him. He also wrote to John Letcher, of Virginia, charging that the administration and Democratic members of Congress were resolved that no Whig generals should have the opportunity to acquire any glory in the Mexican campaign.

The Blockade Runner.

Consul Thorington, who arrived in the Aspinwall steamer on Friday, it is expected will come on here to personally explain to the State Department his action in the matter of the blockade runner Virginius. He is the successor of Consul Smith pastor, who died in this city a few months ago, and of Lilliard Spencer, who succeeded Smith pastor, on the southwest corner of Saratoga and Howard streets, was totally consumed. Nothing remaining but the walls and towers. With the exception of three brick dwellings, commencing on the south side of Saratoga street, the entire square on the block on which the church is situated.

At this hour, 2 a. m., the flames are now spreading in three directions, and the fire department is making every effort to confine the conflagration within its present limits. The firemen are exhausted by the intense heat, abandoned this section to its fate and directed their main efforts to preventing the spread of fire beyond the four blocks named.

Shortly after one o'clock P. M. two engines arrived from Washington and rendered valuable assistance. The fire raged till 3 P. M., but by four o'clock was completely under control.

THE BURNED DISTRICT—LIST OF BUILDINGS BURNED.

NEW YORK, July 25.—The fire spreads over the district which is bounded by Mulberry, Liberty, Lexington and Howard streets, and comprises ten blocks, divided by Clay, Saratoga and Little Pleasant streets, running east and west, and by Park street running northeast and southwest. In the valley are ruins of buildings destroyed and losses as far as known. Where no estimate is made, the losses have not yet been ascertained:

Commencing on Saratoga street, south side, at corner of Liberty, every building is burned, including the Central Presbyterian church, the estimated loss of which is $100,000; insurance $50,000. The building adjoining on the west, No. 56, occupied by A. O. Hilton; No. 58, by Mrs. Mitchell; No. 60, by T. J. Bateman, shoes; No. 62, by Dr. J. Lindsay; No. 64, by Dr. Powell; No. 66, by Mrs. Margaret Dieter; No. 68, unoccupied; No. 100, by Miss Middleton; No. 102, by Misters of St. Vincent de Paul; No. 104, Alpionsus church and library, which extended to Clay street south. The estimated loss on the two latter buildings is said to be $60,000, covered by insurance, but in what companies has not been ascertained. No. 106, boarding house; No. 108, by Daniel Sullivan, gas fitter; No. 110, corner Park street, by Simon Leon. All the se were five brick structures, several stories in height, and the loss a total loss.

West of Park street, on Saratoga street—No. 116, by Cleary & Colquhoun, cigars; No. 118, by Mrs. Growley, house carpenter; No. 120, by A. Ostendorf, jeweler; No. 122, J. Lautner, tailor; No. 124, Mrs. Hook, confectionery; No. 126, John Wise, hardware; No. 128, Frederick Neider, lager beer; No. 130, private house; No. 132, by Daniel Sullivan, gas fitter; new. All were burned out. No. 134, 136 and 138, the latter the Central Garden lager beer saloon, partially burned. On Mulberry street the fire was stopped on Saratoga street, four doors from Howard street. On the north side of Saratoga street no buildings are burned, but a dwelling adjoining St. Alphonso's church, occupied by the Redemptorist Fathers.

On the west side of Liberty street, south of the Central Presbyterian church to the corner of Clay, were three private dwellings, Nos. 22, 24 and 62, which are the only dwellings left standing on the block and are partially damaged. On Clay street, north side, between Liberty and Park, every building has been destroyed. On the south side of Clay street, between Liberty and Park, James A. and John S. Hoyt, carpenters and builders, Nos. 25 and 27; insurance $1,700. John D. Stewart, Central stables, loss $15,000; insurance $6,000. On the south side of Clay street, west of Park: Joseph Thomas & Son, sash and blind factory, and unoccupied, and several small brick dwellings. On the north side of Clay and west of Park the buildings destroyed are occupied by painters, carpenters and cabinet makers, whose individual loss is small. On Park street, west side, between Lexington and Clay, the principal losers are H. N. Darton, tobacco, No. 31; Thomas C. Burton, house furnishing goods, No. 32; loss heavy. From this point to Clay street some eight or ten small buildings were completely destroyed, and from thence to Saratoga principally lager beer saloons. On the east side of Park street: E. Howes & Co., sewing machines; Gaudy's, boot and shoe manufacturer; Wiesner, machine shop; Fitzberger, stoves; Mullin & Sons, marble yard; Little loss. The principal loss on Lexington street was the First English Lutheran church, and its parsonage, Rev. Jas. H. Barclay, pastor, with valuable library attached, is a total loss: insured for $16,000. On Mulberry street, south side, the University of Maryland and Maryland Academy of Arts, both brick fire, but were only partially damaged on the roof, and the former was flooded with water, both fully covered by insurance. A valuable museum attached to the Academy was unharmed; most of the pictures were removed and saved. On the north side of Mulberry street four brick dwellings, 43, 45, 47 and 49, were burned out, and Nos. 37, 39 and 41 partially burned.

In estimating the total loss there is a wide difference of opinion, some placing it as high as $500,000, but our experienced insurance men to-night think that between $300,000 and $400,000 will cover all losses. The insurance can not be estimated to-night, but is confined chiefly to the Fireman's, Baltimore, Howard, Home, and German of this city, not, however, to such an extent as to impair or affect the solvency of either. The Equitable to-night estimates their insurance in the burned district at about $85,000; Firemen's $20,000; Baltimore $10,00; Howard $10,000; and Home less. The local agent here of the Continental, of New York, states their loss at $4 000. It is said the Hanover, of New York, will lose $2,000. Beyond these estimates no reliable information whatever can be obtained, and any statement would be conjectural.

The loss of Thomas & Son has not been ascertained. It is said they have a policy of $13,800 on building and stock in the Firemens' of Baltimore. Louis Dieter, owner of four buildings on Saratoga and four on Clay street, included in the list previously given, loss $30,000; insurance $10,000, in the German of this city.

No loss of life attended the fire from burning or falling walls. It is reported that a woman fell dead in the street, overcome by excitement and alarm. About one hundred houses were destroyed, and about sixty families rendered homeless.

According to a dispatch to the *Tribune*, the boundaries of the burned district are as follows: Howard street on the west, Lexington street on the south, Liberty street on the east, and Mulberry street on the north. The alleys running from Cathedral street through to the corner of Liberty and Saratoga are filled a portion of the eastern boundry, Clay street, where the fire first began, is a half street, half alley, running parallel to Lexington, and between the second and next parallel street the blocks at each corner of the district are only partially burned.

BALTIMORE, July 26.—This morning's *Sun* estimates the loss by the fire of yesterday at $500,000, and states that good judges place the damage as low as between $400,000 and $500,000. The *Gazette* estimates the loss at from $500,000 to $600,000, and the *American* says the loss will closely approximate $1,000,000.

The Home Insurance Company, of Baltimore, says $6,000 will cover its loss. The Associated Firemen's, of Baltimore, $5,000; Hanover, of New York, $2,000. The insurance on the First English Lutheran church, $14,000, was wholly in Baltimore offices. The corporation will lose $10,000 by the fire; the valuable library attached to the parsonage was saved. The insurance in the burnt district is estimated at $200,000, and the entire loss is not estimated to exceed $1,000,000 by any one, and some insurance men will put the loss at a million and a half. There is a great excitement in the city and vicinity.

1:45 P. M.—The fire is now under control, and with the aid of fire apparatus obtained from hotels and other sources the flames will probably be subdued.

2 P. M.—The fire will probably be confined to an area bounded by Lexington street on the south, Howard street on the west, Mulberry street on the north, and Liberty street on the east. After breaking out in the planing mill of Thomas & Son, and situated on the south side of Clay street, near Park. Clay is a narrow street, eighteen feet wide, and the flames were soon on the ground. A stiff breeze from the southwest was blowing and the flames soon communicated to the adjoining buildings on each side on Clay and Park streets. A general alarm was sounded and the fire department was promptly on hand. The fierceness and heat of the conflagration increased, and the breeze fed the flames, which leaped across Park street, and soon the entire block on each side of Clay street, east to Park street, was on fire. The flames spread with great rapidity from building to building, and dense volumes of suffocating smoke were borne northeastwards, hurling in every direction blinding sparks and fiery cinders and brands. In a short time Park street on each side from Lexington to Saratoga was a mass of flames, and on Saratoga street on the north, was a sheet of fire, nearly every building being in flames. The heat was so intense that the firemen were driven from the street. The four blocks bounded by Liberty street on the east, Park on the west, Lexington on the south, and Saratoga on the north, and intersected by Park and Clay streets, were each ablaze, and several fine buildings on Mulberry street had taken fire from the burning brands buried by the wind.

At 11 A. M. a fire department of Washington was telegraphed for assistance. The greatest consternation prevailed. Fires broke out in other buildings as far off as Calvert street became ignited, as also the Lutheran church, corner of Park and Saratoga streets. In all directions women and children were fleeing from their burning houses, and for blocks around every article of furniture was being removed pell mell and thrown from windows. The streets were impassable from blocking of furniture wagons and every kind of vehicle that could be brought into requisition. While the fire was raging the entire fire department was actively engaged in directing its progress, assisted by an army of citizens, who crowded the roofs of buildings on every side, and by hauling and drenching with water the roofs and brands with buckets of water and preventing ignition by many other methods. The fine mansion of the Cathedral was covered with blankets and thus saved, as also was St. Alphonso's church. The firemen, driven from Saratoga and Lexington and salutaga by the intense heat, abandoned this section to its fate and directed their main efforts to preventing the spread of fire beyond the four blocks named.

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In estimating the total loss there is a wide difference of opinion, some placing it as high as $500,000, but our experienced insurance men to-night think that between $300,000 and $400,000 will cover all losses. The insurance can not be estimated to-night, but is confined chiefly to the Fireman's, Baltimore, Howard, Home, and German of this city, not, however, to such an extent as to impair or affect the solvency of either. The Equitable to-night estimates their insurance in the burned district at about $85,000; Firemen's $20,000; Baltimore $10,00; Howard $10,000; and Home less. The local agent here of the Continental, of New York, states their loss at $4 000. It is said the Hanover, of New York, will lose $2,000. Beyond these estimates no reliable information whatever can be obtained, and any statement would be conjectural.

The loss of Thomas & Son has not been ascertained. It is said they have a policy of $13,800 on building and stock in the Firemens' of Baltimore. Louis Dieter, owner of four buildings on Saratoga and four on Clay street, included in the list previously given, loss $30,000; insurance $10,000, in the German of this city.

No loss of life attended the fire from burning or falling walls. It is reported that a woman fell dead in the street, overcome by excitement and alarm. About one hundred houses were destroyed, and about sixty families rendered homeless.

According to a dispatch to the *Tribune*, the boundaries of the burned district are as follows: Howard street on the west, Lexington street on the south, Liberty street on the east, and Mulberry street on the north. The alleys running from Cathedral street through to the corner of Liberty and Saratoga are filled a portion of the eastern boundry, Clay street, where the fire first began, is a half street, half alley, running parallel to Lexington, and between the second and next parallel street the blocks at each corner of the district are only partially burned.

BALTIMORE, July 26.—This morning's *Sun* estimates the loss by the fire of yesterday at $500,000, and states that good judges place the damage as low as between $400,000 and $500,000. The *Gazette* estimates the loss at from $500,000 to $600,000, and the *American* says the loss will closely approximate $1,000,000.

The Home Insurance Company, of Baltimore, says $6,000 will cover its loss. The Associated Firemen's, of Baltimore, $5,000; Hanover, of New York, $2,000. The insurance on the First English Lutheran church, $14,000, was wholly in Baltimore offices. The corporation will lose $10,000 by the fire; the valuable library attached to the parsonage was saved. The insurance in the burnt district is estimated at $200,000, and the entire loss is not estimated to exceed $1,000,000 by any one, and some insurance men will put the loss at a million and a half. There is a great excitement in the city and vicinity.

1:45 P. M.—The fire is now under control, and with the aid of fire apparatus obtained from hotels and other sources the flames will probably be subdued.

2 P. M.—The fire will probably be confined to an area bounded by Lexington street on the south, Howard street on the west, Mulberry street on the north, and Liberty street on the east. After breaking out in the planing mill of Thomas & Son, and situated on the south side of Clay street, the flames rapidly spread across Clay to the block bounded by Howard, Liberty, Saratoga and Clay streets, consuming nearly the entire block.

At this hour but a few buildings remain at the northeast corner of the block, at which point the Central Presbyterian Church (Dr. Smith's) is located, which escaped the fire. The proximity is that the entire block will be consumed from Clay street south.

The fire worked its way back to Lexington, burning all the buildings on Park street. The fire is still raging in the block on the corner of Park street, from Lexington to Saratoga nearly every house has been burned, including the entire block bounded by Clay, Park, Saratoga and Howard streets being consumed. The First English Lutheran church, Rev. Barclay, was entirely consumed. It is possible that the fire will not extend much beyond the blocks named.

It is impossible to get the particulars as the streets in the immediate vicinity for a number of blocks adjacent are being jammed by thousands of people. Furniture wagons and drays are loading up with and removing furniture.

The greatest consternation prevails, the streets literally filled with terrified women and children, every direction with children, bedding, cradles and various pieces of furniture in their arms. The fire department of Washington with its engines from Washington, are now successfully battling the flames. The scene at this hour, 2 a. m., is grand, awful, and unless the stiff breeze now blowing increases to a gale, the fire will undoubtedly be confined to its present limits.

The burned district was principally occupied by small dwellings, mostly two and three story brick, seven three story brick residences. At this time no estimate of the loss can be made. Dispatches have been received from Philadelphia offering assistance. About one hundred buildings have already been burned.

2:40 P. M.—The fire is still raging, but has not extended beyond the block named in the previous dispatches. The fine residence of Gordon and Dr. Smith pastor, on the southwest corner of Saratoga and Liberty streets, is now a mass of ruins, nothing remaining but the walls and towers. With the exception of three brick dwellings, commencing on the corner, the entire block on the south side of the block on which the church is situated.

At this hour, 3 a. m., the flames are now spreading in three directions, and the fire department is making every effort to confine the conflagration within its present limits. The firemen are exhausted by the intense heat, abandoned this section to its fate and directed their main efforts to preventing the spread of fire beyond the four blocks named.

Shortly after one o'clock P. M. two engines arrived from Washington and rendered valuable assistance. The fire raged till 3 P. M., but by four o'clock was completely under control.

THE BURNED DISTRICT—LIST OF BUILDINGS BURNED.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1873.

COAL shipments by the Ohio river for the past three years from January to August 1:

	1871. Bushels.	1872. Bushels.	1873. Bushels.
January	5,804,000	8,621,000	7,995,000
February	6,887,000	.....	7,995,000
March	11,484,000	198,000	8,787,000
April	6,738,000	17,468,000	8,036,000
May	8,267,000	116,000	4,892,000
June	.....	8,223,000	.....
July	.....	9,530,000	6,420,000
Total	38,680,000	43,476,000	44,055,000

THE Democratic editor of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* has been drifting about in the clouds so long that he spurns the idea of trying to cross the Atlantic in a balloon with Prof. WISE. He knows what it is, politically, to be up in a balloon, and you don't catch him! "If," says he, "Mont Blanc were a solid lump of gold, and if in order to become the owner of it we had nothing to do but go over in Professor WISE's balloon and take possession of it, we would a thousand times rather sit down on the shore of Massachusetts Bay and starve to death. For we should then have at least the stern satisfaction of knowing where we were, and what we were doing."

THE N. Y. *Express* is saddened by the quarrelsome spirit in its party, and the unwillingness in the old-liners to give up everything—name, associations and traditions—for the mere chance of success. It regrets to see old Democrats denounced as fools or knaves, and says:

"The cause of defeat, in the case of Seymour and Blair, was owing in part to Democratic treachery, and in part to the want of wisdom in the selection of candidates; while in the case of Greeley and Brown, it was owing in part to that miserable insanity of bad taste and worse temper—which first declared fiercely that the nominations were not fit to be made, and then, with abounding zeal, urged people to support them. The same folly in the germ is now seen; and if the marplots and malcontents are successful, *it will end as in* 1868 *and* 1872."

WE SEE a paragraph in some of our exchanges, quoted on the authority of the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*, to the effect that State Treasurer MACKEY is sure of a nomination, it is arranged that the editor of the COMMERCIAL shall be a candidate for the United States Senate, to succeed Senator SCOTT, and both SCOTT and CAMERON are set down as favoring the move. It is a little singular that the person most interested in this arrangement should know nothing about it. We have never been consulted or spoken to about any such programme, and as we have not the slightest ambition to be United States Senator, no such scheme has ever entered our brain. There is one, however, to be an irresistible inclination, in certain quarters, to couple the name of the editor of this paper with nearly every prominent office in the State; and to stop this constant use of his name in such connection, he desires to say now, once for all, and most emphatically, that he is not a party to any such arrangement, and that he is not and does not desire to be a candidate for United States Senator or any other office.

THE latest phase of the New Departure tendencies of the Democratic party was developed yesterday at Columbus, where a so-called People's Convention was held. There is an air of "We, the people," about the proceedings which would be worth talking about, if the movement were not so palpably fraudulent. But a conclave of scheming Democratic office-hunters cannot, at this late day, deceive anybody by meeting in the name of the people, prating of the breaking down of party barriers, and passing resolutions which mean anything or nothing, according as they are read forward or backward.

Mr. ROSECRANS, in his speech before the Convention, knew what he was saying when he told his hearers the unwelcome truth, that, "no matter how disaffected the Republicans may be in their own ranks, few or none can be recruited to the Democratic party." There is, as Mr. EWING sorrowfully admitted, a prejudice against the name of Democrat, and this prejudice will stamp beforehand with ignoble failure any attempt of the Democratic party, no matter what title it may assume, to sneak back to power and influence in this country. "The Democrats," says Mr. EWING, "have not come to this conclusion." So much the worse for the Democrats, and so much the better for the nation. Mr. EWING's speech was the only lucid thing said at Columbus, and, with one or two trifling exceptions, we agree with him. His "conclusion" is ours, without the change of a letter or a comma, viz.: "That the Democratic party is powerless and ineffective as an ally, and not a fit instrument of Reform in American politics."

THE receipts, during last week, of silver ore from Salt Lake, in this city, were 1,054 sacks. There is now a regular and growing trade between Utah and this city, in ore received from there, and in coke shipped from here for smelting furnaces there. It is, as yet, an unsettled problem whether it is cheapest to ship the coke from here and smelt the ore there, or ship the ore from there and smelt it here, so that smelting goes on largely at both ends of the line. There are now two furnaces in this city for smelting silver ore, and one refining or separating furnace. In the smelting furnaces all the various kinds of metal in the ore are run off together into bricks or pigs, and in the separating furnace the lead is separated from the silver, and the gold, also, if there be any. There are also several smelting furnaces at Chicago, and perhaps at other points between this and Utah.

The great mineral wealth of the Mormon territory has never yet been fully appreciated, but we are glad to see it is in a fair way of development. Capital is slow to go into the uncertain business of mining for the precious metals, the failures being to the successes nearly as fifty to one; but capital can readily be found for the Utah mines when the promise of success is reasonably sure. The extent of the silver mining business, in that Territory, has never yet been determined, statistically; but the yield of silver is already so large as to be notably felt in the specie markets of the East, and the time, we think, is not far distant when the receipts of silver and gold from Utah will rival in amount the receipts of gold in the palmy days of California. The erection of smelting furnaces to extract the silver from the ore, at so many points, shows it to be an already firmly established business, with a near approach to the certainty of being permanent. Pittsburgh, as we have shown, is reaching out for a share of this business, and the large receipts of last week would seem to show that she is beginning to get it.

GLITTERING GENERALITIES are the delight of buncombe politicians. They hunt for words that seem to have a definite and clear meaning; yet which may mean anything the reader chooses. Thus Gen. JACKSON, in his day, tickled the public ear by committing himself to "a *judicious* tariff," which is a very expressive phrase, yet means nothing definite; and the bogus statesmen of the present day are in more danger of running into a very different extreme, and of renouncing not only all spiritual authority, but all recognition of spiritual things, and of adopting materialism and blank atheism as their religion. Such a transition is not peculiar to the freedom of Protestantism, it being in fact one of the commonest results of reaction against Romanist superstition.

But while American Protestants in general are little liable to Romanist perversion, Romanists on the other hand, are greatly influenced by the republican atmosphere in which they dwell. The fact is acknowledged and deplored by their spiritual guides. It is foolish to talk, as some do, about Protestantism as a mere negation. Protesantism fully developed and exemplified in popular government and in voluntary maintenance of religion is not a mere negation but a powerful intellectual and moral life which penetrates and molds more or less all rational beings who pass under its influence. For one thing, Popery or Romanism in its genuine historical characteristics cannot subsist unchanged by the side of it, and must either perish or lay aside many of its distinctive and objectionable features. No doubt whenever it ceases to receive large accessions from Europe, the inevitable transformation will go on with accelerated velocity.

ONE of the plausible humbugs of the day is the idea of being "non-partisan." Mr. BUCKALEW is the inventor of the fanciful but ridiculous conception that a body equally divided in politics is therefore "non-partisan." Such a body is, in fact, incapable of any political action, because equally divided; but it is none the less partisan, each half being more violently opposed to the other half than either would be if one constituted a majority and the other a minority. Another form of the "non-partisan" idea is that of a political party going into the ranks of another party to get its candidates. This may be magnanimous, in some possible cases, but it is not and cannot be, "non-partisan." The motive to such an act is to win a partisan victory with the aid of an opponent, and in the hope that the opponent will thereby be changed from a partisan on his own side to a partisan on the side of his former opponents. It is a poor trick, and never wins. The man thus selected has but two ways open before him, either to join the party so nominating him, or to be, if elected, a more bitter partisan than ever on his own side. He has no good reason for doing the first, because it is always the party in the minority that chooses a candidate from the side of the majority, and there is consequently nothing to be gained by joining it; and so he has nothing left but to betray those who have elected him and use his position to show his old associates that he is still with them.

A thorough illustration of this is now to be seen in the city of New York. The Republicans of that city, last year, instead of nominating a representative and trusty man of their own for Mayor, went into the Democratic ranks and selected WM. F. HAVEMEYER, a lifelong member of the opposition. This was done to show that the Republicans were "non-partisan." "He was chosen," says the New York *Times*, "by the Republicans, in obedience to the appeal from all sides that reform should not be made a partisan undertaking." The "non-partisan" idea was carried out, to the full, and Mr. HAVEMEYER was elected. What is the result? He is not a Republican, and never was; yet the Republicans are asked to accept, as a party, the responsibility for his acts. He is not responsible to them, but they are to be held responsible for him. And what else could have been expected? It is impossible to separate partisan ideas and influences from political actions. Partisans cannot be non-partisan, for it is in politics as in religion, he that is not for us is against us, and he who is not on one side must be on the other. There is no middle ground between the two. There may be, in theory; but in practice it is impossible. Some party, in New York, must be responsible for Mr. HAVEMEYER. The Democrats cannot be, although he acts with them and plays into their hands, and the Republicans must be, because they elected him, although he does not act in concert with them. The sole result, then, to the Republican party of New York, of being "non-partisan" in this case, is to be held accountable for the acts of a man who has nothing in common with it and does nothing out of regard for it.

The mere credit of being "non-partisan," always taking it for granted that such a thing is possible, is therefore of no practical value. It would have been far better for the Republicans of New York to have acted in a partisan spirit. They might not, in that case, have elected their Mayor; but then the candidate of their opponents could have done no worse than the man that was elected, and the opposition would have been responsible for his acts, which they are not now.

All men are, and in a republican government necessarily must be, partisans. Parties are a necessity in all free governments, and men must belong to one or the other of them. To make a Republican candidate out of a Democrat does not transform or change him, or neutralize his political feelings. He is a Democrat and a partisan still; and the "non-partisan" theory, instead of destroying party feeling, breeds only confusion and cross purposes. We are glad, therefore, to see its folly confessed in New York, and to find the *Times* admitting that "Republicans have, in truth, never done any good, either for themselves or the public, by taking up with Democrats."

COAL VS. WIND AND WATER.

Public attention is being more and more earnestly directed to the resumption of the use of those natural motive forces which have to a great extent been thrown out of use by the employment of steam. The subject has for some time been regarded with especial interest in England in prospect of the exhaustion of the coal supply, an anticipation which a careful examination of facts renders likely to be realized within fifty years. And in the meantime, the increasing difficulty and cost with which the article is obtained, tend to stimulate inquiry as to all possible means of getting motive power. In this country the Atlantic also there are causes at work which excite reflection and investigation in the same direction. Of these causes the chief is the extortion practised by those gigantic monopolies which have already succeeded in gaining entire control of some of the most important coal fields in the country, and are thus enabled to enrich themselves at the expense of consumers. No person who has, during the last few years, watched the gradual development of the despotism of corporations in this country, can doubt that their every combination for the regulation of the coal supply, can feel any doubt about the oppression of the future, unless some remedy can be devised. In all probability the remedy will be found in the use of materials and agencies which shall render the public in some measure independent of the monopolists referred to. The importance of forests is beginning to be understood, and wood may, in some places, be used instead of coal, when the latter article rises to a price which is unfortunate price. In some places peat is found, and may be used. On all our highways and elsewhere is found an article which is used as fuel over a large portion of Asia and even in Southern Europe; why should it not be so used in this country? But so far as mere heating and cooking purposes are concerned, a partial resource against extortion will doubtlessly be found in the economy of fuel, as there are few American houses in which coal is not lavishly wasted; three or four times the quantity really needed being consumed.

In anticipation, however, of the scarcity or of the increased cost of coal, the important question of course relates to the possibility of obtaining a motor force which may take the place or rather do the work of coal in manufactures and transportation. While on the continent of Europe the wind has never ceased to be employed as a motor, in England a generation has grown up ignorant of windmills, and in the United States the world has been exclusively used to denote a machine for winnowing grain, impelled not by the wind but by the hand. But Englishmen are seriously meditating a return to many of their fashioned agency, and a recent invention is reported of "a device for storing up the surplus power of windmills on a windy day for use in calms." If such a machine has really been contrived, it is a great achievement, perhaps foreshadowed and suggested by the Homeric story told in the tenth book of the Odyssey — how ÆOLUS, for the accommodation of ULYSSES gave him bound up in a skin all the winds save Zephyrus, the breeze needed to speed him on his voyage. The proverbial irregularity and variableness of the wind form the great objection to its use as a motive power; it can not be depended upon, blowing when and whither it listeth. But even if this difficulty has not been already in part overcome by an English invention, we doubt not that Yankee ingenuity urged by the motives which the common need presented, would speedily arrange a contrivance by which all or nearly all the force of even an Iowa tornado could be bottled up and then gradually expended in the propulsion of machinery. Probably but for the universal use of steam, the wind would before now have been thus utilized by the new race which in the last half century has done so much in the subjugation of nature.

Of our vast stores of "water-power," also, comparatively little use has been made. No genuine Yankee ever gazed at Niagara Falls without pain in view of such waste of natural power, which might as well and as be made to turn innumerable wheels and spindles. Then along our immense coast line, and for many scores of miles inland, in many cases, there is in the ebb and flow of the tides an amount of power sufficient, if properly harnessed, to do all the work of the world, and much more. Some readers may fancy a poor attempt at a joke in such speculation, but nothing of the sort is intended. We have the authority of the United States Encouraging Goods Reporter" for the statement that the attention of engineers and mechanics has been directed to the subject, and that they encourage the most sanguine anticipations of ultimate success in the application of the tides to industrial works on the largest scale. Along much of our Atlantic coast, especially in New England, the shores are said to be well adapted to the purpose, being rocky and affording a firm foundation for massive and permanent structures of the kind required.

But without thus using the tides, the brooks, creeks, and rivers of the country present countless sources of power which are hardly thought of, and which might be used with admirable results. By taking advantage of the tremendous natural forces at present allowed to run idle the country might be covered with manufactures which need be but slightly dependent upon coal for their operation and success. And there are men neither fools nor enthusiasts who confidently look for industrial development in that direction as a result of and resource against scarcity or excessive cost of coal, from whatever cause it may proceed. It may safely be taken for granted that if mechanical and engineering ingenuity were once aroused and directed to such an end, important improvements would speedily be made in practical hydraulics, a department in which American engineers are at present said to be somewhat deficient. If the deficiency exists, as an eminent French engineer has lately affirmed, it must be referred to the absence of sufficient motive as its cause, a cause which would be soon removed by the revolution anticipated.

Whether rational or fanciful such views regarding the possibility of dispensing with coal as a source of power are just now the subject of a good deal of consideration and discussion, and though they may never be entirely realized, they are not very likely to vanish from the minds of men without some practical result.

THIRD PARTIES.

Those who are too pure, (in their own esteem,) or too quarrelsome, or too full of cussedness generally to remain contentedly in either of the parties, continually point to the old Free Soil party as an illustration of the results that may be accomplished by third parties. The reasoning is somewhat in this fashion:

The object of the Free Soil party was the abolition of slavery.

Slavery was abolished.

Ergo: Its abolition was due to the Free Soil party.

The error, here, is in the conclusion. It is palpably a *non sequitur*. The major and the minor propositions are correct; but it by no means follows that the Free Soil party, from a small beginning, grew into a party potent enough to abolish slavery.

Because, in fact, it never did. The Liberty party preceded the Free Soil party, and accomplished nothing, politically. It was able to rally a few earnest, conscientious men around its standards, but it grew too slowly to produce any perceptible effects on the politics of the country. The Free Soil party followed it, but on a lowered platform, contending more particularly against the spread of slavery than for its abolition, basing its action on the right of the people to the freedom of the soil. This lowered action brought a slight increase in numbers, but the Free Soil party, as a party, accomplished nothing beyond electing PALFREY, TUCK and a few others to the House of Representatives, and SUMNER, CHASE and HALE to the United States Senate; and these were elected, not by the strength of that party, but by coalitions with one or the other of the two existing parties.

It was the defeat of the Whig party, under Gen. SCOTT, in 1852, and the subsequent attempt of the slaveholders to repeal the Missouri Compromise, that gave birth to the Republican party in 1855. The Free Soil party was, at that time, at the end of its string. It had accomplished but little, was stationary in numbers, and had practically disbanded in 1853. The Republican party sprang up, not in consequence of it, but out of the exigencies of the occasion, and the organization of the other was quietly abandoned, in the few places where it was still maintained. The Republican party succeeded it, but was not born of it, although the mission of the two was in some measure cognate.

The five years' struggle of the Republican party, growing out of the high-handed attempt to carry slavery into the national territories, culminated in 1860 in the election of LINCOLN. This the South regarded as a cause of war; seceded; brought on a rebellion that involved a severe, and for some time doubtful, struggle; and the abolition of slavery followed, not as the result of the political action of any party, but as a war expedient, rendered necessary by the exigencies of a prolonged and uncertain struggle.

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postal cards. The latest valuable piece of information is that they cannot be sent at the ordinary rate when written on the side that contains the map for the address. You may write your letter and crowd as much as possible in a microscopic hand upon the blank side, but let no word transgress the opposite face, else the full letter postage must be forthcoming in cash or coal, from whatever cause it may proceed. It may safely be taken for granted that if mechanical and engineering ingenuity were once aroused and directed to such an end, important improvements would speedily be made in practical hydraulics, a department in which American engineers are at present said to be somewhat deficient. If the deficiency exists, as an eminent French engineer has lately affirmed, it must be referred to the absence of sufficient motive as its cause, a cause which would be soon removed by the revolution anticipated.

A MAN out in Montana, a short time ago, squatted on another person's land and built a small frame shanty. When requested to move he positively refused to do it. Some of his neighbors came around after the squatter and his wife were asleep, and lifting the whole concern, shanty and all, with deliberate care carried it to the river and set it on a small raft. Then they pushed the raft out into the stream and let her go. When the squatter got up in the morning to go out, he was surprised to find himself about sixty miles down stream, and taking good time in a line-knot current. This is all we shall say about that man. It would be extremely improper to report his remarks in full at this paper.

WE learn something new every day about the more difficulty in driving away those who ought not to belong to your new party than in attracting those who should belong to it. That, at any rate, was my experience last year."

Demas Barnes has made much money from patent medicines; and now he proposes to start a new evening daily in Brooklyn. The new paper will be independent in politics, and will be a sure cure for all the ills that flesh is heir to. None genuine, probably, without the signature of D. Barnes on the Wrapper. Look out for imitations.—*Rochester Democrat.*

The Democrats of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio have little success in their endeavors to sauce Mr. C. W. Lamison into resigning the seat in the House of Representatives. Last Wednesday the Democratic Convention of the Second Sub-Division of the Third Judicial District adopted a resolution denouncing the "salary steal" as an "unfamonsa act of fraud," and its supporters unworthy the imorsement of a Democratic Convention. Mr. Lamison defended himself, succeeding only in teasing the ire of the delegates. Several of them expressed their opinions very freely, while others called upon Mr. Lamison to resign. For the second time he proved his determination to retain his seat by replying to his constituents demand, in this choice language: "Resign be d—d. I'll see you in h—l first."

Hon. Charles Francis Adams has acknowledged, in a letter to a Western man, the reception of a card containing what is denominated a platform of the Farmers' and People's Anti-Monopoly party of Livingston county, and says: "I see little to object to and a good deal to approve. But at this day it is not profession that is so much wanted as practice."

What a jolly time the Democrats of Albany will make it in denouncing the salary grab in the first chance they get in convention. We wait with impatience to see how they will frame their resolutions of inorganization, and reprobation on account of the conduct of their representative, Eli Perry, who constantly voted for the stealing bill at every stage of its progress. The Free Soil party followed it, but on a lowered platform, contending more particularly against the spread of slavery than for its abolition, basing its action on the right of the people to the freedom of the soil. This lowered action brought a slight increase in numbers, but the Free Soil party, as a party, accomplished nothing beyond electing PALFREY, TUCK and a few others to the House of Representatives, and SUMNER, CHASE and HALE to the United States Senate; and these were elected, not by the strength of that party, but by coalitions with one or the other of the two existing parties.

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REPUBLICAN COUNTY TICKET.

PRESIDENT JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT,
HON. THOMAS EWING, Pittsburgh.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT,
HON. J. W. F. WHITE, Sewickley.

STATE SENATE,
HON. GEORGE H. ANDERSON, Pittsburgh.

ASSEMBLY,
First City District,
HENRY H. MCCORMICK, Pittsburgh.
Second City District,
S. J. WAINWRIGHT, Pittsburgh.
County Districts,
J. C. NEWMEYER, Wilkins.
A. B. YOUNG, Robinson.
A. C. HAYS, Pittsburgh (South Side).
B. C. CHRISTY, Sewickley.
HENRY GERWIG, Allegheny.

PROTHONOTARY,
B. F. KENNEDY, Pittsburgh.

COUNTY TREASURER,
Capt. SAMUEL KILGORE, Pittsburgh.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
AUGUSTUS BECKERT, Pittsburgh.

JURY COMMISSIONER,
Capt. JOHN MCLELLAND, West Deer.

CORONER,
WILLIAM MCCALLIN, Pittsburgh.

DIRECTOR OF THE POOR,
THOMAS VARNER, Baldwin.

POLITICAL.

State.

At the meeting of the Northampton county Republican Committee on the 26th inst., Col. Frank Reeder, of Easton, and David Acherman, of Bangor, were elected Republican delegates to the State Convention. Messrs. J. K. Dawes, Richard Russell and Owen A. Luckenbach were selected as Senatorial conferees to meet the Bucks county conferees for the purpose of selecting a Senatorial delegate. James K. Dawes, of the Easton *Free Press*, was re-elected Chairman of the County Committee for the ensuing year.

The Republican County Committee of Lehigh met at Allentown on Saturday, 26th inst., and elected, by acclamation, R. Clay Wright generally as Senatorial, and Frank Mickley and George Erdman, as Representative delegates to the State Convention. The County meeting was appointed for August 9th, and the nominating Convention on the 16th.

The Allentown *Chronicle* says: One of the hopeful signs of Republicanism in Montgomery county is the appearance of cards from prominent Republicans declining themselves as candidates for nomination, subject to the decision of the Republican County Convention. Heretofore Republicans in that county have had no confidence in securing an election, and, as last year, it has always been difficult to obtain men who would run, but they are inspired with hope by their unexpected success of last year, and in making up estimates of the political result in the State the Democrats will hardly be likely to put down Montgomery county as good for 2,000 majority for their side. If they do they will count on 3,500 for ours.

The Philadelphia *Sunday Republic* says that it may now be positively stated that Judge Kelley will be again a candidate for Congress when the time for nominating representatives comes around. It was understood that Colonel E. M. Davis would under certain contingencies be a candidate, but those contingencies are removed by the understanding that the Judge will run, and the Colonel will be a candidate again for the State Senate.

Hon. Leonard Myers will be a candidate for Congress in the Lehigh district, and he now announces by Hon. A. C. Harmer which is embraced within the limits of Philadelphia. Mr. Myers and his colleague, Mr. O'Neill, having been thrown into the same district by the Apportionment bill passed last winter, the former has removed into Harmer's district, where a "new deal" may be expected. Mr. O'Neill is also a candidate for re-nomination.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* says: The Senatorial fight in Berks is being vigorously contested. New candidates have lately entered the arena, and still others may be expected to put in an appearance before the meeting of the Democratic Convention. Those prominently named for the position at this time are Col. J. De Puy Davis, Daniel Ermentrout Esq., and H. Clay Lauer, Esq., of this city; Hon. H. H. Schwartz, of Kutztown; Dr. Levi Lewis, of Womelsdorf; Hon. Henry Brobst, of Talpehocken, and, of course, Parson Kohler, of Maxatawny. Those who have not announced themselves, and the opinion that Senator Davis is likely to be returned. Democratic Ermentrouts are not equally sanguine of his nomination. During Senator Davis's absence in Europe as one of the Commissioners to the Vienna Exhibition, Mr. Ermentrout did a good deal of hard and effective work, every one recollects heavily against his principal competitor, Mr. Davis's record of this has not improved since the latter's return, until now it begins to look as if the mantle of the former Senator would again fall upon Senator Davis. Should this prove to be the case, Mr. Davis will of course congratulate himself upon having succeeded in breaking down, at least in part, the rotation out of place of a faithful officer by an entirely new and untried man. Whether the Democratic party of Berks will be willing to ignore the precedent in Mr. Davis's case, remains to be seen; but there are many friends in the county who believe that who think that it will be accomplished at the forthcoming County Convention. Of course, Democratic sacrifices in the past week, died in fact, and it is evidence that such a consummation is greatly to be regretted that it would be well to pay any price with the party machinery, and that it would be extremely dangerous, in view of the State election the fall, to embark in such an experiment as that contemplated by Mr. Davis and his friends.

The Scranton *Republican* hasn't got much faith in the "Reform" movement in Philadelphia. It says: "When one looks at the bottom of it, it is after all nothing but a fight between one set of politicians (or a ring,) who are in office, and another set of the same stamp who are not in office. There is no talk about all there is to the Philadelphia reform movement."

As already announced, the Republicans of Lancaster county will hold their primary elections on Saturday next, under the Crawford county system, for candidates for Representatives in the Legislature, county officers and delegates to the State Convention. Wyngend a set of resolutions endorsing the nation for Assemblymen, three to be chosen: D. K. Burkholder, East Hempfield; George H. Etris, Manheim, W.; Milton Shaub, Lancaster borough; Samuel M. Myers, City; Amos H Mylin, West Lampeter; Benjamin Shuman, Washington; John Taggart, Marietta; Haydn H. Tindall, Warwick; E. D. White, Cornarvon; A. R. Witmer, West Hempfield.

The Blair county Democratic Standing Committee met in Hollidaysburg on Saturday, and fixed Monday, August 25th, as the time for holding the County Convention, and the Saturday following as the date for the primary election. Delegates to the State Convention will be elected by the county meeting.

Ohio.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, July 29, 1873.

THE FUNERAL GATHERING OF ODDS AND ENDS AT COLUMBUS.

The delegates to the Convention called by the Allen county "Cooperative" Democrats and the State Liberal Central Committee have already arrived in the city to the number of over one hundred. Of this number Cincinnati furnishes perhaps one-half, embracing most of the hitherto "Liberal" leaders in that city. Among the number are those who, years ago, were prominently before the people, but of late have not been much in public life. The Convention will meet at exactly o'clock to-morrow morning at Ambo's Hall, and will be called to order by F. R. Cunningham, of Allen county, the "father" of the movement. Ex-Senator George E. Pugh will be temporary chairman, assisted by Judge White, of Hamilton county, permanent presiding officer. A platform will be adopted in which "free trade" will be one of the principal planks, and a resolution against all monopolies and those of railroads particularly, will also be incorporated. There is not very much canvassing for candidates to-night, but the choice for Governor appears to lay between Chilton A. White and General A. Sanders Piatt, the latter being urged by many as the farmers' candidate.

The Liberal Republicans held a caucus to-night, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we propose to join heartily with the people of this and all other States who choose to participate in an effort to form a party able and willing to deal with the living issues of to-day, and to set them in the direction of a pure and honest selection of a ticket.

Resolved, That our thanks are due to General Brinkerhoff and the State Central Committee, for their faithful and diligent labors, because to them, unsuccessful though they were, will be largely due the success of the new movement into which we are about to enter.

COLUMBUS, July 29.—The indications are that the Liberal and Allen county Convention to-morrow will not be so large as was anticipated. Up to this time representatives of fifty-two counties have arrived. The Liberal Republicans held a caucus to night. W. B. Sloan, of Ottawa county, acted as chairman. Most of the evening was spent in the interchange of opinion as to the proper course to pursue

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, August 2, 1873.

THE IRON FIELDS OF MENOMONEE.

Newly Explored Mines which are Equal to the Best in Lake Superior.

[Correspondence of the Milwaukee Sentinel.]

MENOMONEE, Mich., July 21.—The Lake Superior iron region has been pretty thoroughly explored as far south as the ridge which divides the waters which flow into Green Bay and Lake Michigan; and the country lying north of this ridge includes nearly all of that popularly classed as the iron fields of the upper peninsula of Michigan. In the winds of a few, however, there has long been an impression that south of this ridge, in the space of country extending to the Menominee river, the boundary line between Michigan and Wisconsin, and, indeed, in Wisconsin, there are immense beds of iron ore, equal in extent and richness to those of the Superior side of the water-shed. Reasonable ground for this belief was found in the discovery of what is known as Little Sturgeon Falls mine, in 1867, at a point about twenty-eight miles from the mouth of Deer Creek, a small stream falling into Green Bay. The ores then taken from this mine, near the surface of the ground, and submitted to analysis, gave sixty per cent. of metallic iron. This test was repeated some time in the summer of 1870, with a similar result, and about the same time a deposit of marble or granite was found in the vicinity. The existence of the marble had been known for some years, but its extent was only a matter of conjecture. It is now known that almost inexhaustible quantities of it are there, and so situated as to be easily quarried or soon as means of conveying it to market are supplied. Whether it will ever be used for the various purposes to which white marble is applied cannot now be told, but a high authority has already asserted that no other building stone in America equals it.

The two Breen mine, about which much has been said, lies about two miles east of Little Sturgeon Falls mine. It presents on one side of a high ridge a solid wall of iron ore from sixty to sixty feet in perpendicular height. The ridge is a quarter of a mile across at its base, and from that rises a hundred feet high at its crown. On the crown where the trees have been uprooted by the wind, the roots have lifted the thin soil with them, covering the ore and shown that the ridge is almost all solid iron. If anything may be judged safely from the history of mines, it is that the depth of this deposit is much greater than its height.

The Breen mine is situated seven miles west of the Breen mine, and is under the control of the Milwaukee Iron Company. It gives good promise. A vein of soft, blue hematite ore has been exposed in a distance of four hundred and fifty feet to a point where its width was ten meters. Specular ore is the article required, however, and of that an immense deposit has been found which works forty per cent. of iron, but is not yet as rich as it will probably prove when pushed a little farther.

The Quinnesec mines, still five miles further west, is attracting attention just now. It is in the hands of citizens of Menominee, who are developing its extent and quality as fast as possible. The exposure is on a southern and eastern slope, and trenches have been cut across the seams at high angles, exposing first, a vein of brown hematite, which, I am assured by Col. Lynn, of the Marquette *Mining Journal*, is not exceeded by any in the country. A fair quality of red specular ore has also been found, and work is now progressing for the further development of both.

In a space of eighteen miles north by fifteen west from the Breen mine will be found, in the near future to be bay shore—there are fourteen mines having distinct out-croppings, and on which special examinations have been made quite to the satisfaction and often to the surprise of iron men. This includes no reference to numerous timber appearances where no work has been done. In fact little work as yet been accomplished in comparison with the extent of the field to be explored. From Green Bay to the mines is all a dense forest, and few roads are yet provided for the accommodation of the work. Until recently it was necessary for explorers to carry in their stores on their backs; but the impetus received from the late explorations will soon clear away these hindrances. One may readily foresee the iron horse packing in supplies and packing out the immense weight of iron for such deposits as exist here cannot fail to create a centre of industries of which to-day we have almost no image since 1856 on the north shore of the peninsula. Immense forests of timber extend on each side of the Menominee river on all its branches through to Lake Michigammi, and furnish inexhaustible supplies of lumber for mining purposes. Indeed, this whole district is comprised within the comparatively unexplored portion of the peninsula, and only enough is known to give entire assurance that it holds a wealth beyond the most daring guess yet made concerning it.

The iron field of which this forms a part reaches through to Lake Superior; or in other words, the Menominee iron mines are only a southern outcrop of the Superior mines. They have already been followed north to Lake Michigamme, and are found without digging to be sufficiently distinct to warrant that belief.

On the Wisconsin side of the river less is known of them, though the similarity in the conformation of the country indicates that iron is there. "Float ore" as it is called, has been found there in plenty, but no distinct out-croppings have been brought to public notice, and no digging has been done. I am assured by good judges, though, that diligent exploration can hardly fail to bring to light beds of ore in Oconto county fully as rich as those in Menominee on the opposite side. Specimens of ore have been brought in from all quarter by explorers for pine timber that give the right kind of surface indications, and some of them have specimens now undergoing test, from which they confidently expect to realize handsomely. In any rate, the little that has been done to throw light on the deposits on the Wisconsin side has quite satisfied judges of such matters that a large tract of country on that side is rich in minerals.

A Bit of Lord Gordon's History.

The Minneapolis *Tribune* sketches as follows one of Lord Gordon's transactions in Minnesota: "He had been in Minnesota only a few weeks (in 1870), when it was whispered around that he was planning a purchase on a grand scale of lands along the Northern Pacific Road, for a colony of poor Scotch immigrants. The land officers of the road interviewed him. 'Yes,' he said, 'I do covet a few thousand acres of your beautiful lands; not for myself—I have more than enough for the remnant of my poor life—but for my beloved sister, for gratification of her benevolence. She would like to present to some of my old tenants lands in your free Republic, where they may rear their families in peace and plenty and, to gratify my beautiful sister, I would like to buy a few thousand acres—not many thousand, you know—say—say about—fifty thousand acres or so—just a little for my poor pensioners.'

"Then there was a buzz! The office of the Northern Pacific was agitated. Here was a lord—a Lord —who spurned interest money—and he wanted a little bit of land—fifty thousand acres, for benevolent purposes! He would like to inspect it, of course, before purchasing. So they equipped a caravan, and led him promptly forth. It was the last of August when the princely retinue left the depot in St. Paul to the Northern Pacific, under command of Colonel Loomis, the deviser and commander of the excursion. Can the glories of that caravan be told? It was equipped for a lord. There were half a dozen teams with a carriage for Mrs. Milord, besides the omnibuses, ambulances, &c. There were twelve men to do the manual labor, three cooks, and two darkey waiters in linen aprons and white silk gloves, and the royal table was unloaded from the baggage wagons at every noon and night, loaded with fresh napkins, silver plate, and china—unhappily, chinaware without the Gordon arms. Ah, how gorgeous! Every luxury that the markets of Chicago, St. Paul, and Minneapolis could produce was there in profusion, and every delicacy the prairies from Woodcock to buffalo. Champagne three times a day.

"When the caravan had skirted Oak Lake, Milord wanted to see Fergus Falls, and when it had done Fergus Fall he longed for Detroit, and when it had digested Morehead he yearned to visit the glimpse of the moon, beyond the Red river. So on and on the cortege went, Milord never once rowelling the sable waiters, ever cajoling and reproaching the French cook, ever offering handsome gratification and apprehension, and ever sending relays or messengers for more pate-d grouse, more cranberry jelly, and more champagne. The season was studied the sphinx Milord, and concluded that he was a queer cross between the nobleman and the boy; he had half lord and half lackey; perhaps his father was an English Earl and his mother an Irish chambermaid. In November they came to Moorhead. Milord had selected his fifty thousand acres in Otter Tail and Beaver counties. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company footed the bills, $15,000 for two months.

"The absurd farce was at an end. Milord Gordon did not buy the land for his poor tenants, and he never again mentioned his benevolent sister to anybody!"

Romances of London Life.

The London correspondent of the Boston *Post* writes of the Police Courts as follows: "It sounds less than modest scene occur many little tragedies and comedies, which let more light in upon real life than a hundred works of fiction. The court, too, has its notable habitues, who are almost always to be seen on its benches; nor are these wholly confined to the plebeian order of society. A week rarely passes, indeed, that a noble does not appear in Bow street. The Marquis if, in truth, one of the oddities of polished London. Of great wealth, and the heir of a name and house long celebrated in English history, he has devoted his life to helping the unfortunate and championing the defenseless; and in this most commendable work a somewhat Quixotic career it is feared that the worthy Marquis is taken in. His kindly nature being easily discernable by sharpers, he has become a victim of continual plots to get money, and it often becomes necessary for the magistrates to reprove him mildly for his indiscreet generosity. Yet he perseveres in his course, and very often is to be seen in the Police Courts, as a most serious representation of some desolate old man or forlorn young girl, whose delinquencies have brought him or her within the clutches of the law. Another frequent visitor to the Police Courts is the good Miss Stride, who keeps a charitable and private home for the unfortunate in a quiet street in Bloomsbury, whither she takes poor young girls who have been led astray, but are not wholly irreclaimable. Miss Stride does not hesitate, in pursuit of her good end, to visit these dens of the law, and to watch for delinquents whom she may save from further degradation. Other characters, more eccentric and less benevolent, frequent the Police Courts, from which, it is not unknown, Dickens procured originals for some of his most telling portraits. The fascinations of the Court from prove all too much for some of them have specimens now undergoing test, from which they confidently expect to realize handsomely. In any rate, the little that has been done to throw light on the deposits on the Wisconsin side has quite satisfied judges of such matters that a large tract of country on that side is rich in minerals.

WHAT THEY DRINK IN TEXAS.

A Medical Man Makes an Investigation into the Comparative Merits of the Most Popular Texan Beverages.

P. H. Esq.

MY DEAR SIR: yours of the 10th was duley received containing Notets.

In your Letter you ask me which is the most dangeros Beverage that man is Are to, That is in the common exceptation of the Term, the common whiskey, as Now Manufactured, Say from Anleoheol, Strickinine, Tea, tobacco, Burnt Applee k co, or the Lager Beer as now manufactured, in Texas, from the Ingredients Now used by Brewers here (Texas) Dear Sir Allow me to say to you, All that I Know & can Say, is from Personall Knowledge & Experience.

I wet to work some three months since to Teste the matter for myseife, and this is the result that I have came to.

Three months since I commenced, Taking what we call Hotgut, say 8, or 10, slugs per day, say 5 fingers at a time, for 2 weeks. By that time I had the cramps by Night and by day, in a most every Limone in my bodey, in fact the cramps were Pressing my Limbs from my head to the smallest Limone in my boddy. Even to the ends of my Pedal members. I could not take food as usual, could not Sleep, altho my mind was more acute & sharper than without the rot Gut. But I had a desire for Fight & wanted to fight all the time & every noddy, when under the influence, as aforesaid, I felt fully, at the time.

But I found in a very short Time that I should Go under, if I did not stop. I stopped, and in about 3 weeks I took to Lagger. Great God! what a time I had for the Next three weeks that followed, and I only drank about 14 Laggers per day & in one week I lay Dear Sir will pledge you my word that I was not fit for anything at all, and when I came home at the end of the month of Night, I Swear you ought that I was some one that was not myself & kicked me and by Jove in the morning when I awoke and took a Good Look at my Self, I thought that I was Mad was muddled & I could not think of anything that happened, for days before my Eyes, Snakes, Snakes, Lizards, Baboons, and all the other Reptiles animals the country is are to is upon me—in the chief case Inebriation, Insability and Delusation of the whole Frame and Limbs, and the Devil was on my back & upon me. So my Dear Sir you have the whole Solution and my advice to you as a Doctor if you have any of those Simptoms to stop it Nile you can and take the pacegatic I enclose.

Yours Truly
WM. PIKE MD.
BRENHAM TEXAS June 21, 1873.

ANECDOTE OF MACREADY.

How He Got Himself Up for Lear—A Very Probable Story.

The following anecdote of the great tragedian, Macready, came from a theater attache, and is probably as reliable as the most of them: Macready used every agency "that God and nature put in his power" to make his acting tell. He neglected no aid of light and shade, no study of position; no minute attention to detail; indeed, no artifice whatever that would heighten effect. The storm scene in Lear was one of his most powerful representations. An old man, tottering and exhausted, raving at the elements, and defying thunder, lightning and hail, is a touching spectacle. To get himself up in style for this scene, he employed a strong and muscular friend to sprinkle him from head to foot with him vigorously, first right and then left, then forward and back, as a dog shakes a rag, till his hair was completely wet, and in a general condition to be mixed up that, when the muscular man gave him the final shove on the stage, he was the very picture of a reeling, worn-out, and used up old man, and, as he vented his rage on the stormy forces of nature, the impression was complete. Every night the stout party was somewhat late, and, fearing that he would not be behindhand in the storm scene, he rushed in hurriedly to what he supposed was the right place, and, seeing an elderly-looking man, which Mr. Wallack, being found was the person he expected somebody, he went for and shook him; shook him powerfully enough to make up for lost time; shook the "daylights out of him," and then flung him head-long on the stage. The pit saw it in a moment, and they hooted, as only the pit of old days could hoot. The victim, scared almost to death, arose, and began to grow angry, and the pit only didn't quiet take in the situation till the outraged Lear, indulging in a tall kind of rhetoric not found in Shakespeare, impressed on him that he had manipulated the wrong man.

THE BULL-WHACKERS.

Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack—Success of their "Dramatic Season."

[From the Omaha Bee.]

Yesterday William Cody, otherwise known as Buffalo Bill, and J. B. Omohundro, or Texas Jack, arrived in the city from the East, accompanied by E. B. Overton, of Brevoort Place, New York; E. P. Green, of Amsterdam, New York; and Scott, the hatter, of Chicago.

Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack, as is well known, have been treading the sensational stage for the last six months, and have found it a very pleasant and comfortable fortune, which they intend to increase to mammoth proportions during the fall and winter seasons.

Buffalo Bill, Texas Jack and Ned Buntline each cleared $50,000 during the eight months. Bill thinks this more remunerative than the honor of being a Nebraska Legislator, while Texas Jack is of the opinion that fascinating a New York belle into hunting and scouting. Bill has invested some of his money in a place in Westchester county, miles from Philadelphia, where his family now reside. Both men are looking exceedingly well, and sport considerably bewhiskered appearance. Bill's handsome satin shirt bosom is ornamented with a $1,200 diamond pin and diamond studs, and he wears a $1,000 chain and magnificent gold watch, while his little finger on the left hand is encircled by a valuable diamond ring. During Jack's trip to the East he was presented with a $650 breech-loading gun by the Earl of Dunraven. He also has a splendid rifle, given to him by Remington, the great manufacturer. Buffalo Bill also had one given him by the same gentleman.

The whole party left on this morning's train for Fort McPherson, from which place, on the 20th, they intend to go on a grand buffalo hunt. The buffalo hunters are all well armed, and will be absent on the hunt two weeks.

Lack of Thought in Simple Acts of Life.

[Herbert Spencer in the Popular Science Monthly.]

We have but to observe the human action as it meets us at every turn to see that the average of attention, incapable of guiding conduct even in simple matters where but a very moderate reach of reason would suffice, must fall in apprehending with due clearness the ordinary associations of ethical principles. The unthinking inapitude with which even the routine of life is carried on by the mass of men shows clearly that they have nothing like the intelligent apprehension of right and wrong in the absence of an authoritative code of conduct. Take a day's experience and observe the lack of thought indicated from hour to hour.

You rise in the morning, and, while dressing, take a wai containing a tonic, of which a little has been prescribed for you; but after the first few drops have been counted, succeeding drops run down the side of the vial—in became the lip is shaped without regard to the requirement. Yet millions of such vials are annually made by glass makers, and sent out by thousands of druggists, so small being the amount of sense brought to bear on business. Now, turning to the looking-glass, you find that, if not of the best make, it fails to preserve the attitude in which you put it; or, if what is called a "good" lookingglass you see that maladjustment of its position is insured by its appearance. In the line of the position has been superfluous had a little reason been used. Were the adjustment such that the center of gravity of the glass came in the line through the point of support (which would be quite as easy an adjustment), the glass would remain steady in any attitude in which you gave it. Yet year after year tens of thousands of looking glasses are made without regard to so simple a need. Presently you go down to breakfast, and taking some Harvey or other sauce with your fish, find the bottle has a device like that which you found in the phial—it is sticky from the drops which trickle down, and occasionally stain the table cloth. Here are other groups of unthinking acts so economical of thought that they do nothing to rectify this inconvenience.

Having breakfasted, you take up the paper, and, before sitting down, wish to put some coal on the fire. But the iron you seize with the tongs slips out of them, and if large, you make several attempts before you succeed in lifting it—all because the ends of the tongs are not smooth. Makers and users of fire irons go on, generation after generation, without perceiving that this ugly, ungripping, grating to these smooth ends some projecting points, or even roughening them by a few burrs with a chisel. Having at length grasped the lump and put it on the fire, you begin to read; but before you have got through the first column, you are reminded by the changes of position which your sensations prompt, that men still fail to make easy chairs. And yet the guiding principle is simple enough. A seat to be advantage, secured by using a soft seat in place of a hard one—the advantage—namely, of spreading over a large area the pressure of the weight to be borne, and so making the pressure less intense at anyone point—is an advantage to be sought in the form of the chair. Ease is to be gained by making the shapes and relative inclination of seat and back as will evenly distribute the weight of the body and limbs over the widest possible supporting surface, and with the least straining of the joints out of their natural attitudes. And yet only now, after these thousands of years of civilization, are there being reached (and that not generally but empirically) approximations to the structure required.

Prospect of a Corner in Salt.

[From the East Saginaw (Mich.) Courier, July 30.]

There is considerable activity in the salt market and the prospects favor a "corner." We arrive at this conclusion not from any sudden developments, but from the fact that buyers representing at least two combinations have been actively engaged during the past few days buying not only the manufactured product, but the make of the season to November 1st, for cash and sixty day paper. We hear of at least six or seven firms who have sold their make at from $1 40 to $1 42, and a number of others have been approached and declined. It is estimated that the purchases of the past week or ten days, will be amount on hand, and controlled by the buyers, will approximate 250,000 barrels, and possibly exceed these figures. The market for some time has been brisk, with buyers on hand as fast as the sale was ready for market, and the quotations of $1 40 to $1 50 have been readily realized. Manufacturers have been contented with these figures, and in the even terror of trade there has been no evidence of any sudden rise or decline in the market, and none has been expected. All at once the facts presented that there are not 10,000 barrels of manufactured salt on the river north of Carrollton in the market, and many of the former works have so-d for months ahead. If the statement of a Bay City commission dealer is to be credited, the same condition of affairs exists at that end of the river. If there is a movement here in combination with Syracuse and other dealers to corner the market, the fact has not been fully developed, other than in the circumstances we have related. The quotations at Chicago and lower lake ports remain the same as during the past few weeks, except that the quotation "strong" or "brisk" is made to indicate the tendency of the market. The salt product of the Saginaw river this year will not fall short of 800,000 barrels, and may possibly exceed 900,000, being a large increase over any previous year. Of this amount, between 500,000 and 600,000 have already been shipped. We will say that 300,000 barrels of the balance are consumed by the combinations, leaving 100,000 barrels flood of 200,000 to 250,000 barrels—possibly more, according to the amount to the manufactured—to be brought into market. Wholesale prices are nominally, $1 40 to $1 42, but under the circumstances it may be reasonably assumed that they will advance. One unusual circumstance, which perhaps does not enter into the arrangement, but will assist it, is that a larger amount of salt is being bought for Cleveland and lower lake ports than formerly, the large bin in Saginaw salt usually finding its way to Chicago and the West.

Gotlieb Scheerer's Little Joke.

There is an anecdote of Gotlieb Scheerer, who, twelve years ago, was an active Philadelphia politician, and Vice President Dallas, which he is fond of giving in print. Some thirty years ago Mr. Dallas was counsel in a case in Philadelphia, and Mr. Bailey's name was called as a witness. The following questions were put by Mr. Dallas:

"Mr. Scheerer, were you in Harrisburg last June?"

"Last June, did you say, Mr. Dallas?"

"Yes, last June; don't repeat my question, but answer it."

After some moments of study the answer came: "No, Mr. Dallas, I was not in Harrisburg last June!"

"Were you in Harrisburg last July?"

He reflected again, and slowly said, "No, Mr. Dallas, I was not in Harrisburg in July."

"Were you there in August, Mr. Scheerer?"

The witness again meditated and said, "No, Mr. Dallas, I was not there in August."

"Were you there in September?"

Here Mr. Scheerer reflected longer than before, and replied, "No, Mr. Dallas, I was not in Harrisburg in September."

Mr. Dallas became tired of this barren result, and, raising his voice, said:

"Mr. Scheerer, are you tell the Court when you were in Harrisburg?"

"Mr. Dallas," said Scheerer, "I never was in Harrisburg in my life."

The Court, the audience and Gotlieb Scheerer enjoyed the joke, but Mr. Dallas did not heartily partake of the merriment created.

Recent rains have done great good to the crops in Central Kentucky, which were in a bad condition before.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, July 30, 1873.

Local matters of interest are scarce and of such a character as to be hardly worthy of chronicling. Many of our leading merchants and bankers are out of town on their summer vacations, recuperating against the strain on their nervous systems during the coming fall and winter. It is a duty which every man owes to himself and to those in his employ, to see that all have some recreation during the heated term, for after a vacation, however short, men return to work with increased interest and energy. The continued, unbroken round of a bookeeper's labor is as monotonous and uninteresting as that of a blind horse on a ferry boat, and the duties attending such a position are performed with more intelligence and better after a relaxation. A very competent authority also says that "not all who never leave their work are defaulters, but that the defaulters never leave their work to be performed and their record examined by another person." So in addition to the benefit to be derived directly by man, from rest and change, it is often of importance that an experienced hand should review the routine work which goes on usually without the inspection of others interested.

A correspondent writes us, stating that he has returned to him from bank several small notes protested in different parts of the State, and that the fees for protesting vary from $1 53 to $3 27, and asks if the amount of the paper has anything to do with the fees and what is the law on the subject.

In this city the legal charge is $1 50, postage, if any, and 10 cents for every notice in excess of two; if the notary has to go to Allegheny City or the South Side, he usually adds 50 cents extra. If the maker of the paper is so far out of town that he cannot conveniently walk, he adds charges for a horse and buggy (although he doubtless really goes in a street car, at the cost of 12 cents), as he is entitled to "all reasonable expenses," of which he is himself the judge. Where paper is protested in the country, the bank handling it usually adds 25 cents for its trouble.

Philadelphia has a special law making the legal charge for protesting $2, and increasing that charge by the number of blocks traveled in making the presentation and demand.

In order to avoid all *extra* charges, parties would do well to see that their paper is made payable at some bank, thus insuring the minimum rate.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of government and State bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

Eve.	
1881	119½
1867	116½
1864	115½
1865, new	119¼
1865, new	117¾
1867	117¾
1868	118¼
10-40s	115¾
New 5s	107¾
Currency 6s	114¾
Tennessees, old	77
Tennessees, new	81
North Carolinas, old	27
North Carolinas, new	15
Missouris	90

—James T. Brady & Co., corner o' Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	115¼
United States 6s, 1881	119¾
United States 5-20s, 1862	117¾
United States 5-20s, 1864	117¾
United States 5-20s, 1865	119¾
United States 10-40s	115¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	112¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	118¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	118¾

—The District Court of Kentucky has just decided three important points in the several "special deposit" cases against the bank of Bowling Green, in that commonwealth, now out of the hands of the unfortunate official, Calvert. The amount involved was about $150,000, and the facts of the case presented many new and interesting questions of importance to commercial circles. There were three points passed on:

First. Special deposits stolen by the cashier and converted to his own use.

Second. Counterfeits issued by the cashier with individuals for an exchange of their bonds for other stocks and securities.

Third. Special deposits stolen by the cashier and converted to the use and benefit of the bank.

In unwavering terms the Court holds, that the first class, the bank is not responsible, the act of theft not being an act done in the course of the agency of the cashier, and the depositor can only prove and recover his claim against the bank.

The second class is not liable, it having no interest in the subject matter of the contract, and the benefit received nor has to receive any consideration. But that for the third class the bank was liable, the thing received the benefits of the conversion by its agent—the proceeds of the bonds having passed into its credit on the books of the corporation. This ruling defeats the claims of a large number of creditors of the bank.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

July 30, 1873.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 M.	1:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	115½	115¼	115¼	115¼
Western Union Tele'ph	92¼	92¼	92¼	92¼
Quicksilver	36¾	37	37¼	37¼
Pacific Mail	36¾	37¼	37¼	37¼
New York Central	96	96¼	96¼	96¼
Wells-Fargo Express	70¾			
Mariposa	10			
United States Express	44			
New York Centrals	96	96¼	96¼	96¼
Erie	38¾	39	39	39
Michigan Central	96	96¼	96¼	96¼
Michigan Southern	94¼	94¾	94¾	94¾
Illinois Central	96	96¼	96¼	96¼
Cleveland and Pittsb'gh	88¾	89	89	89
Chicago and Rock Island	89¾	90¼	90¼	90¼
Chic go and N. W. pref.	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾
Rock Island	92	92¼	92¼	92¼
St. Paul	35¾	36¼	36¼	36¼
Fort Wayne	95¾	96	96	96
Ohio and Mississippi	28¼	28¾	28¾	28¾
Union Pacific	28¾	29¼	29¼	29¼
Chicago and Alton	108¾			
Chicago and Alton pref.				
Boston, Hart. and Erie	13¾			
New Jersey Central				
New 6s	94¾			
Hannibal and St. Joseph				
Del. & Lack.	96			
Atlantic Mail				

—Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnishes the following quotations of active stock on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Pennsylvania R.R.	54¾	Philadelphia & Erie	24¾
Reading	56¾	Pittsburgh	87½
United Companies	122	A. V. R.R. 7-30s	93
Oil Creek	36¾	Penna. Transport'n	42
Lehigh Valley	61	Empire Transport'n	57

WOOL MARKETS.

BOSTON.

July 26.—There is very little change to note in the wool market since our last report. Manufacturers are still purchasing freely, and find good assortments from which to make selections. The receipts of domestic fleece are large, and stocks are pressing upon the market more than any previous time this season. As a rule, prices without change, but in some instances the desire to sell has led dealers to make slight concessions. New Ohio is selling at 39a50c; Michigan 46a48c.

Pulled wool is selling in a moderate way at about the same prices as last week. The demand lacks activity.

California continues to sell as freely as at any time this season and choice lots are very firm. Low grades are plenty, and buyers get them at low figures.

Foreign wool continues quiet. There have been some shipments to England, and could freight room to London be obtained at reasonable prices still more would be sent. Nothing is moving at present to sell at the prices which rule here, and buyers will not purchase except at a concession, preferring to buy domestic wool. Sales during the week ending July 24 have been 12,702 bales domestic.

Sales for the week have been 1,100,000 pounds domestic and 100,000 pounds foreign. Included in the former are the following sales of fleece: 5,000 lbs Ohio at 50c; 4,000 lbs do fine at 50c; 5 cars do No 1 and above at 49c; 16,000 lbs do at 48c; 100,000 lbs do and Michigan at 46a49c; 42,000 lbs Michigan at 48c; 10,000 lbs do at 44a45c; 40,000 lbs do at 43c; 15,000 lbs do at 47c; 100,000 lbs western on private terms; 6,000 lbs XX at 50c; 10,000 lbs Pennsylvania X at 50c; 10,000 lbs old Pennsylvania at 50c; 5,000 lbs coarse at 35c; 2,500 lbs do and low at 40c.

In unwashed wool the sales foot up 15,000 lbs at 30a32c; 2,000 lbs medium at 27½a40c; 5,000 lbs fine and do at 30a35c; 6,000 lbs do Western at 33c; 3,000 lbs coarse at 26c.

The sales of pulled wool have been 10,000 lbs on private terms; 5,000 lbs super at 46c; 17,000 lbs do at 45c; 15,000 lbs super at 40a45c; 9,000 lbs do at 40½c; 2,000 lbs do at 42c; 3,000 lbs coarse do at 32c; 2,000 lbs Native do at 62c; 1,000 lbs Native at 52½c.

In scoured and tubwashed wools we note sales of 50,000 lbs scoured on private terms; 10,000 lbs at 75c; 5,500 lbs tub at 52c; 5,000 lbs do at 54c.

Sales of combing and delaine have been 10,000 lbs combing fleece at 55a57½c; 5,000 lbs same fleece at 40c; 17,000 lbs do and delaine at 50a55c; 50,000 lbs do and do at 53a55c; 6,000 lbs washed do and do at 42c; 5,000 lbs do and do at 38a55c; 10,000 lbs unwashed do and do at 40c; 5,000 lbs unwashed western do and do at 35c; 5,000 lbs unwashed Kentucky do and do at 42½c; 22,000 lbs delaine on private terms; 10,000 lbs do at 51a53c; 2,000 lbs do sections at 52½c.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

NEW YORK.

July 26.—The demand for domestic continues active, and prices are very strong. The advices from Ohio and Michigan still report the clip as light, and 42a½ 45 cents for their stocks, while the same description of wools are selling in this market for 48a50 cents. Foreign is still inactive, but holders are asking full rates and no concessions are noticeable. The goods market remains in about the same condition that has been noted for some time past, but dealers prophecy a very active fall trade with an expected improvement in prices. The case comprises 1,000 bales, 400 of which are for Canada, at 17c, gold; 100 do, free, 54c; 50 do Portuguese, 48c; 350 do Ja ava and Cuba fleece, 45a50c; 50 do combing do 60c; 35 bales spring California 25a30c; 20,000 lbs do, 29c; 40 bags super pulled 48c; 33,000 lbs Texas, part choice fleece, 35a36c. A sale of 250,000 lbs X and XX Ohio fleece is reported to-day from Philadelphia, but the terms we did not learn.—*Shipping List.*

July 23.—The general market for the past three days presents no new features; the demand is, perhaps, less active, but prices remain, as a rule, steady and firm. The sales, as will be noticed, are chiefly of fleeces, which are coming in more freely than at any time since the season opened. There has been nothing further done in foreign. The transactions comprise 5,000 lbs Mexican at 31c; 4,000 lbs barry fall California at 17c; 1,000 lbs pulled double X 25c; 100 do Texas 28a32½c; 25,000 lbs Georgia 52c; 10,000 lbs domestic combing fleece 66c; 25,000 lbs X and above Michigan do do 46a48½c; 50,000 lbs Ohio do, 10,000 lbs combing, 14,000 lbs unwashed do, 3,000 lbs unmerchantable do, 6,000 lbs super pulled, and 32 bales spring California on private terms. By auction, 12 bales damaged Montevideo sold at 17a19c, cash.—*Commercial List.*

The Michigan Wool Clip.

The Detroit *Free Press*, speaking of the region along the line of the Michigan Central Railroad, says:

Nine-tenths of the wool has been marketed, and many of the buyers have stopped buying. Good has their wool and shipped it East. Forty cents was the average price, as near as can be ascertained. The range was from 36c to 48c. Those who held over superior wools brought over 40c. The buyers all report this clip at least five per cent. better in quality than that of last year. The cause of this improvement was that the continued cold weather kept back the washing so late that the wool growers were forced to shear their sheep as soon as the wool was dry (the most of them two and three days after the washing), not giving the usual time of two and three weeks to load the wool with grease and dirt, as the spring work had to be attended to as soon as the sheep were sheared.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL.
WEDNESDAY, July 30, 1873.

REMARKS.—The weather is all that could be wished, even by the veriest fault-finder.

The markets show little change in prices with regard to all leading articles—perishable goods being more immediately effected by quality, condition and demand.

Flour was reported more active, with some brands of choice western, from store, sold ahead. Winters held firm at quotations.

Oil wheat in light supply, with new coming in by car lots, which is selling, at 100a10c below old.

Potatoes are making their way down to living prices; still there is a wide margin between Eastern and Western varieties. See quotations.

Bacon reported very active, with a heavy order demand from the surrounding country, in addition to the city trade, which is unusually brisk.

Groceries are firm and unchanged in prices. Sugars and coffees are, in particular, strong at quotations, though some dealers say that the former is weaker.

The cheese market is strong and prices fully sustained. The stock on hand is large, but the demand is equally so.

There is no change in the butter market. Nothing but a prime article is wanted in this market.

The apple market, owing to free arrivals, rules easier, and prices are a shade lower.

We have little to say—in fact close quotations are difficult to arrive at. At present there is a tussle between the old and new for the mastery of the trade.

The vegetable market is fully supplied with all the luxuries usually current at this season of the year.

There has been an advance in the indispensable article of pea nuts, which, on account of "munchers" in this line, we are sorry to chronicle.

Below we give the wholesale rates of the principal articles of produce for the past two weeks. It will be seen that the receipts of flour are nearly equal; apples have fallen off; cheese, corn oats and wheat advanced; butter fallen off, whilst bacon, hides, fleeces and pieces, increased. Following is the table:

	Last week.	This week.
Flour, bbls	7,750	7,564
Apples, bbls	691	362
Cheese, tns	1,130	1,976
Corn, sks	2,690	6,590
Wheat, sks	1,444	2,329
Butter, pkgs	170	170
Eye, sks	620	600
Potatoes, bush	12,433	16,502
Butter, pkgs	234	137
Bacon, pieces	8,115	2,240
Bacon, tons	702	784

Below we give the wholesale rates of the market unless special mention is made to the contrary:

APPLES—Prices are still maintained at $3 00a$5 00 ₩ bbl. Receipts are light—in fact only enough for the best supply. As will be seen by the sales below prices vary from $4 00 to $5 50, which show at once that the run of stock is common. Prime cattle sell in the neighborhood of 6c, very few bring over that figure, though it is said a bunch of choice would sell at $6 25.

FRUCES.

Extra 1,400 to 1,550 lbs, fine and smooth, $6 25; extra 1,300 lbs, fine and smooth, $5 85 to $6 00; prime 1,200 lbs, fine and smooth, $5 50 to $5 75; fair 1,100 lbs, fine and smooth, $5 00 to $5 25; fair 1,000 lbs, $4 00 to $4 75; common, $3 50 to $4 00.

Hogs.

The run of hogs for the week ending to-day, has been heavy, amounting to over seventeen thousand head. The demand is hardly up to the supply, and prices are, consequently, easy on heavy weights. The most, and in fact, the only inquiry at present seems to be for light hogs, and this class smooth and fine, weighing about 175 to 200 lbs, sells for as high as $5 50. Nothing heavier has been asked rather inactive at this point, a good many of the hogs being through consignments, there has not been much change in prices since this day week. Prime Philadelphia hogs are selling at $5 50, generally sells from 50 to 75 cents higher than any other grades, are dull sale at $5 25, about the same figure a choice lot of Baltimore hogs would bring. Light stock will continue to bring as much money as the better grades will for the remain season is over. Following are the rates current:

Extra Philadelphia $5 25; prime Philadelphia, $5 20; prime Baltimore, $5 15 to $5 25; light Yorkers, $5 10 to $5 15.

Sheep.

The receipts of sheep for the week fair and about equal to the demand. The attendance of buyers is good and trade rules moderately active on all grades but best on good stock of which there is a light supply on sale. There was a good many stock sheep among the offerings which found-ready sale. Joseph Force buying liberally of this for farmers East. On the whole prices and feeling about the same as last week. At this writing it looks as if all the stock on the yards will be sold. Following are the present rates:

Extra, 100 lbs, fine wool, $5 40 to $5 50; prime 96 lbs, fine wool, $5 25 to $5 35; prime 90 lbs, fine wool, $5 00 to $5 15.

Horses.

The run of horses for the week has been light. Very few horses selling at this point, most of the receipts being through consignments. Trade East is reported dull and slow. Following are the prices here:

Heavy draft horses, 1,400 to 1,500 lbs, $200 to 250; draft horses, 1,200 to 1,350 lbs, $150; sireckers, $100 to 150; common plugs, $50 to 75.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle for the week ending to-day, as will be seen by the report above, have been heavy. The through cattle were principally from Chicago and belonged to the regular shippers, and were destined for the New York market. In point of quality they were fair, though among the number were a good many Texas and Cherokee stock. The number of cattle offered for sale at this point, for the week has been large and mostly of a common quality. Very few choice have been in the stock being among the offerings. Light grass cattle about half fat, and a good many of them not fit to butcher, seemed to be the kind which were here in heavy supply. The attendance of buyers this week is good, the small towns of the East, as well as the large markets being well represented. While the quality of the cattle was not so good as desired by many of the buyers, still they commenced at once to buy, especially on Monday and Tuesday were made of quite a number of cattle at figures pretty close to last week's prices. The number of cattle in the evening still uns

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1873.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 28th 1872.

THE Springfield *Republican* speaks of the 'Epidemic of political recklessness," which is raging in Ohio on account of the Allen county movement. Where does it prevail? There has not been a response to the Allen county proposition in all that broad State, except in Cincinnati, and that was a very, very feeble one. The movement was a failure from the beginning, and has obtained much more notoriety and importance outside of the State than in it.

IT SEEMS generally conceded that the "Crispins" Associations of Massachusetts, composed of shoemakers, which were at one time as powerful in Massachusetts as the "Granges" are now in the West, have so declined in numbers that now there is scarcely an Association in existence in that State. This is the fate of all secret political societies, or of secret societies turned to political uses. They spring up rapidly; flourish for a while like a green bay tree; and then gradually fade out. It is impossible, after the first glare of excitement wears off, to keep up the interest in them.

VERY little seems to be gained by murderers in Ohio, by the substitution of imprisonment for life in place of hanging. Three men sentenced to the Ohio Penitentiary for life, for the crime of murder, fell victims to the recent visit of the cholera to that institution. One of these was CHAMBERLAIN, the Solon murderer, for whom extraordinary efforts were made when he was tried, and who heartily congratulated himself when a verdict for murder in the second degree was rendered, on his escape from the gallows. This was only two or three months ago.

THE railroad companies of Illinois are beginning to comprehend that their recently adopted freight rates are working rather to their own injury than to that of the farmers. These rates were so ingeniously framed that while they avoided the charge of discrimination, they at the same time increased the price of transportation. The law was thus literally complied with, but in a such a way as to deepen the already growing hostility of the farmers, and the consequence has been a material falling off in the revenues of the railroads. The railroad conscience is in its pocket; and although revenge is sweet, and the gratification of spite is delicious, money is of more consequence than spite; hence we are not surprised to hear that several of the leading railroads are revising their tariffs and materially reducing their rates. If this had been gracefully and magnanimously done, at first, the railroads would have got full credit for the concession; but now, having taught the people how to use force legitimately and effectually, they have nothing to console themselves with but the reflection that they submitted only when they could not help it.

THE Canada scandal grows more odorous every day, and the evidence lately published leaves no room to doubt that the Canadian Ministry received large sums of money from Sir HUGH ALLAN, for election purposes, as the price of awarding the contract for the construction of the Canada Pacific Road. It is a clear case of open bribery, and the ministerial organ at Montreal appears to be thoroughly stupefied by the disclosures. Among the statements lately published are documents that carry conviction with them. One of them is a note from Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER to Mr. J. J. C. ABBOTT, Sir HUGH's associate, asking him to "supply the Central Committee with a further sum of $20,000," and a postscript asks for $10,000 more for Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD on the same terms. Another document, dated Montreal, August 21, 1872, the election for members of the Dominion Parliament being then pending. The receipt reads as follows:

"Received from Sir Hugh Allan, by the hands of Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, twenty thousand dollars for general election purposes to be arranged hereafter, according to the terms of the letter of Sir George E. Cartier, of this date, which I return, and in accordance with the request contained in his letter of the 24th instant.

"Montreal, 26th August, 1872.

[Signed] "J. L. BEAUDRY,
"HUBERT PAPINEAU,
"P. S. MURPHY.

"For Central Committee, L. BETOURNAY."

On the same day Sir JOHN wrote from Toronto to Mr. ABBOTT: "I must have another $10,000 or will be at the last time of calling; do not fail me; answer to-day." Mr. ABBOTT replied: "Draw on me for ten thousand dollars." And Sir JOHN did draw, and the draft was paid.

Sir HUGH ALLAN has proven himself a very skilful fisher of men; his hook brought up editors, Cabinet Ministers, priests and influential men, whenever he dropped it into the water, and the bait, for the trouble it cost, was easily swallowed. The sport must have been exciting, while it lasted; but if, after all the shekels thus spent in bait, he should lose the building of the Pacific Road, it will prove very dear and unremunerative sport. And that it is likely to be the result. The Ministry is sure to fail: and Sir HUGH's contract, in that event, is as sure to be revoked. And so the old proverb comes true, that "cheating never prospers."

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

Though neither so important nor so interesting to the world at large as some other recent wars, the conflict on the West African coast between Great Britain and Ashantee is by no means an insignificant affair. During the last few years British interest in Africa has been steadily growing, and when, before the close of the present century, England shall rule in that quarter of the world a colonial empire more extensive than that of India and Australia combined, it will no doubt be obvious to the historian that General NAPIER's rescue of British captives in Abyssinia, BAKER PASHA's expedition to the head waters of the Nile, and Sir BARTLE FRERE's late visit to Zanzibar formed essential steps in the gradual extension of British power in Africa. At present these incidents are less manifest advances than the discovery of diamonds in Griqualand or the acquisition of the Dutch possessions on the Gold Coast. In the latter transaction the war with Ashantee so disastrous thus far to British prestige, had its origin.

When in exchange for the surrender of the English protectorate over Sumatra and for the right to import coolies from British India the Dutch transferred to Great Britain its claims on the Gold Coast with its dependent negro tribes, they did not ask the consent of the latter to the bargain. It seems that they were greatly dissatisfied with the arrangement These Elminese negroes had been for two hundred years the dependants of Holland, and dreaded evil results to themselves from the transfer of their allegiance. In particular they feared that they would be attacked and reduced to a state of subjection by the neighboring tribe of the Fantees, who had already for a good while enjoyed the protection of the English government established at Cape Coast Castle. Between the Elminas and the Fantees, a hereditary feud existed of the kind common to the country. It is said that the former even sent a deputation to The Hague to remonstrate against the treaty with England and their own transfer. But Holland had come to look upon its African possessions as of little value since the abolition of the slave trade, and the Dutch government felt that it had fulfilled its duty toward the Eliminese by inducing the English to promise them that they should not be troubled by the Fantees. For a while after the withdrawal of the Dutch from Elmina, their late negro retainers appear to have got on well enough. But the affairs took a turn which fully justified the fears with which they had accepted British rule.

The Dutch had always recognized the claim of the King of the Ashantees, a powerful tribe or State bordering on Elmina, to be the feudal chief or seignior of all the people and territory along the coast, and in consideration of this relation, they had been accustomed to make his sable majesty a present of four hundred ducats every year, and besides to allow him a bonus on every man whom he furnished them as a recruit for their negro troops. Of course these recruits were merely captives taken by the Ashantee monarch in his raids upon his neighbors. While the slave trade flourished, such prisoners were sold as slaves, and that traffic having ceased, the complacency of the Dutch in allowing a bounty on the King's prizes enabled him to replenish his exchequer in the old fashioned way. The practice of the Dutch was plainly objectionable in spite of the facts that the money given was not called a price but a bonus, and that the men purchased were not made exactly slaves but soldiers, who were required to serve sometimes in the Dutch West Indies and sometimes in the Dutch East Indies. Then, the Dutch bonus, so far as it went, stimulated raids for captives quite as effectually as if the captives were to become slaves instead of high-stepping Dutch soldiers. On the other hand, the Ashantee King will doubtless make war on his neighbors, whether he can make profit by his prisoners or not, and, unable to dispose of them to advantage, he will certainly put them to death. Hence the Dutch might claim common humanity as a justification of their practice as most people will admit that, the alternative being soldiership in the Dutch service or death, they would choose the former.

At any rate, right or wrong, by their conciliatory method of dealing with the powerful Ashantee monarch, the Dutch not only lived in peace with him themselves, but they enabled their negro retainers of Elmina to enjoy perpetual quiet and security, while their neighbors, the strong, and in some respects noble, tribe of the Fantees, were involved in continual wars with the Ashantees. When by the treaty of two years ago the English became masters of Elmina, they refused to imitate the timid policy of their Dutch predecessors. As to the bounty on recruits they abolished it at once. They did not want soldiers, and they would not pay a bonus which might prompt bloody feuds, and the payment of an annual tribute whether in recognition of an imaginary right or as the price of peace, seemed to them wholly incompatible with the dignity of the "empire on which the sun never sets." In fact, the English on the African coast have always maintained this attitude toward the King of the Ashantees, and the present is the third war they have waged with him, in defense of the independence of the Fantees and other tribes on the coast who deny his feudal supremacy, but own British protection. The first of these conflicts was found to be so costly in human life as well as money that England concluded to withdraw from the Gold Coast after a fruitless victory. In 1862 or 63 the English a second time, got into war with the Ashantees, and a considerable expedition sent against them, through lack of foresight and by unskillful management, failed disastrously. Such a result naturally increased the arrogance of the proud and ignorant savage who rules or claims to rule over some three millions of subjects and can send forty thousand fighting men into the field. In a way quite characteristic of their nationality the English have become involved in the present struggle without any of the preparations which should have been made for it, and from all accounts they and their unhappy retainers, their new subjects, the Elminese have been reduced to terrible straits. The Fantees have been utterly routed, and the victorious Ashantees, at last accounts, held the entire country up to Cape Coast Castle and Elmina. Elmina itself, the late capital of the Dutch possessions, a town of about 10,000 black inhabitants, has been burned by the British. It was that the Elminese, who anticipated English rule with such gloomy forebodings, tried to make their peace with the Ashantee monarch, by supplying his troops with arms and ammunition, and, as a punishment for disloyalty, their town was fired by their new masters. "Before taking this step a proclamation was issued offering shelter in the Castle of Elmina to all loyal people who were willing to take the oath of allegiance." It seems rather a hard case, but the gratification of spite is delicious, money is of more consequence than spite; hence we are not surprised to hear that several of the leading railroads are revising their tariffs and materially reducing their rates. If this had been gracefully and magnanimously done, at first, the railroads would have got full credit for the concession; but now, having taught the people how to use force legitimately and effectually, they have nothing to console themselves with but the reflection that they submitted only when they could not help it.

Unhappily the example of MILLS, the President, is not the only demoralizing feature in the collapse of the Brooklyn Trust Company. With MILLS were associated in the management of it a number of Directors who rank high in New York as men of honor and respectability. They are capitalists as well. In fact, the names of the men formed an essential part of the capital of the bank. They were known to the public as shrewd, capable business men, well able to take care of whatever interests they might receive in charge; so that by their connection with the Trust Company, not only their friends, rich and poor, but the general public were induced to make deposits in the concern. Equally to stockholders and depositors, the names of the Directors constituted the guarantee that funds committed to the company would be safely kept and honestly and judiciously managed. It is always so in all concerns of the class, as everybody knows, and to suppose that the Directors of the Trust Company were not aware of the confidence placed in them and of the reciprocal obligations they sustained while retaining their office, is absurd. And yet from the investigation of the management of the exploded bank it appears that the Directors acted precisely as if they had no responsibility in the business. Placed in their position to overlook, and if necessary, to control the action of the President, they allowed him to do exactly what he pleased. As if they had incurred no responsibility to others, they left the entire management in his hands, and in truth abdicated their office without informing the public of the fact. They permitted him to take worthless securities, and even to violate the charter of the company by lending money to its officers, and finally theirin difference was carried to such an extreme that they possessed no definite knowledge of the affairs or condition of the bank. At length when the circumstance became known to these Directors, that the President was using money of depositors for his own purposes, the astounding fact is established that one of the most distinguished and respectable of the gentlemen spoke of the crime as "too common an error." He denied that it was dishonest. It is safe to say that the disclosures concerning the manner in which these "respectable" Directors discharged their duty to the Brooklyn Trust Company will be as demoralizing in their influence as the conduct of MILLS.

We may, however, trust that these revelations will, in another direction, be followed by results advantageous to the public. In other cities, besides Brooklyn and New York, there are financial companies not more favored in their Directors than the Brooklyn Trust Company. Strange as the statement seems, it is no unusual thing, they say, for men, who would scorn to obtain goods under false pretenses, to permit the use of their names in a manner which thus defrauds the public. In other words, they accept the office of bank Directors, and then neglect to exercise the supervision and control which the position imposes, and when subordinates abuse their opportunities and ordinates abuse their opportunities and hundreds of poor people are robbed of their hundreds of poor people are robbed of their hardly earned savings, the careless Directors are safe in their immaculate "respectability," not only from harm but from reproach. The worst said of them is that conscious of their own honesty they confided too much in the honesty of others. But it is no apology, and until such men incur by their carelessness the infamy they merit, failures like that of the Brooklyn Trust Company will be common.

DECLINE OF PROTESTANTISM.

A prominent clergyman of New York city, a year or two ago, startled his congregation and the public by the declaration that Protestantism is a failure, and one of the leading metropolitan journals, the *Times*, has lately discussed the "Decline of Protestantism." Its treatment of the subject seemed sincere, and quite free from the spirit of either bigotry or sensationalism. The writer apparently believed that the reasons alleged by him justified belief in the growing ascendancy of Romanism among the many religious sects of the land, and in the failure, through their own deficiencies, of the latter—collective Protestantism—to maintain the position of relative superiority to their aged antagonist once certainly held by them. The article in the *Times* has called forth letters from many correspondents who make various comments on the subject. One of them flatly denies the truth of the statement that Protestantism has declined or is declining, and he supports his denial by an appeal to statistics which seem sufficiently clear and satisfactory. It appears that in 1860, when the population of the United States was 31,443,321, the Protestant church edifices of all denominations, numbered 54,009 furnishing accommodations for rather more than nineteen millions of persons, and valued in money at $171,397,932. Between 1850 and 1860, 16,948 church edifices were built, amounting in value to nearly ninety four millions of dollars. In 1870, when the population of the United States was 38,558,-371, there were 63,084 church edifices, sufficient to accommodate 21,665,062 persons, or nearly two-thirds of the entire population, and valued in money at $354,500,000. In the decade ending in 1870 the increase of value in church property amounted to more than eighty-three millions of dollars. The lists of membership in the Protestant churches exhibit the same rapid increase of Protestant strength. In 1860 the communicants in the different Protestant churches numbered 5,730,000 and in 1870 they numbered 6,250,000, an increase of 1,500,000 in round numbers, or 150,000 communicants for each year. "*If* we reckon, as is usual, three persons for each communicant, as attached in some form to the church, there are about 20,000,000 of nominal Protestants in this country," that is, of Protestants in more or less intimate connection with churches.

In farther evidence of the vitality of Protestantism the same writer refers to the enormous sum, of money contributed by Protestants for educational purposes, buildings, endowments, &c., a form of liberality more strikingly exemplified within the last dozen years than ever before. The contributions to the causes of Home and Foreign Missions, to the Bible Society, Tract Society, etc., must not be forgotten.

The actual and increasing vitality of Protestantism is equally manifest in the more elevated and generous spirit which prevails and tends to prevail among the denominations, distinguished from one another by differences of small significance. Thus among the Presbyterian divisions the disposition to combine their resources and work together is fast becoming irresistible, and even among the subdivisions of the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal bodies the same disposition seems steadily growing more apparent. And there is no room for doubt that with the development of this spirit of harmony, in proportion as sectarian animosities and jealousies shall give place to a real exemplification of Christian charity and co-operation, the increased efficiency and power of the various Protestant denominations to impress the masses of the population will be manifest in results.

But while we would not undervalue the importance of such changes, but recognize in them ground of encouragement for the future, we do not doubt that the evil of the divisions of Protestanism is often greatly exaggerated. At any rate, it is inevitable, as without the recognition of one supreme arbiter of doctrine, men will certainly differ in their religious views. Protestants must agree to differ, and they may well with cheerfulness accept the necessity of doctrinal variations as a less evil than the absolute authority which alone would suffice to secure seeming unity of faith.

The newspaper correspondent cited above dwells wholly on denominational growth and activity in evidence of the progress and efficiency of Protestantism. But this is perhaps a rather narrow view of the subject. The truth is that almost our entire civilization is a monument of the power and beneficent influence of Protestantism. It originated and moulded our republican institutions, inspired our social system and moulds the national spirit. And whatever foul blots may deform or morbid tendencies may interfere with the working of our civil polity and social organization, the country presents the grandest spectacle of human well being ever seen on earth. All this is easily proved to be the outcome of the free spirit of Protestantism, and while a fair prospect exists of the pro onged duration of the great republic, it is premature to discuss the decline of Protestantism.

From the tenor of several of the letters which the discussion of the subject has inspired, it appears to be a common notion that Protestant ministers in their pulpit discourses pay less attention than they ought, to the Catholic controversy. It seems to be thought that they ought more frequently to discuss the errors of Papacy, and to indoctrinate their congregations in the arguments by which the Protestant faith is supported. No doubt, the liberal spirit of the age does discourage controversy of the old fashioned kind in the pulpit, and no doubt, fear of being sneered at or scorned as a bigot or as a narrow minded zealot does prevent some timid clergymen from making mention of the perpetual struggle going on, whether talked about or not, betwixt Popery and Protestantism. There ought, however, to be no delicacy on the subject, and perhaps the scruples of the most sensitive would be completely overcome by better knowledge of the utter contempt with which the consecrated defenders of Catholic dogmas look down upon their Protestant opponents. They also profess as little charity or delicacy as respect. And yet it may be better for all that neither the scorn nor the uncharitableness often either provokes response or inspires controversial attempts. Perhaps the most effectual means of defending and propagating Protestantism in this country, is the exemplification of its principles in popular government, in the voluntary support of churches, in free schools, in the equality in the wide diffusion of the facts, historical and contemporary, which illustrate the deplorable effects of priestly domination and instruction.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

However unwarranted or absurd the speculation, people will found predictions of permanently peaceful relations betwixt England and Russia on the prospective alliance by marriage of their royal houses. As to the latter fact there is no longer any room for doubt: the Duke of Edinburgh, whom loyal Englishmen delight to call their "Sailor Prince," and the only daughter of the Czar, have been betrothed and will, in due time, be married. Besides the exalted birth and position of the parties, two or three incidental circumstances render the matrimonial engagement interesting to the "average mind." In the first place, it is believed to be what they call a love-match, which originated with the persons directly concerned, without instigation or suggestion on the part of either Russian or English statesmen. Even the Queen of England and the Czar and Czarina are said to be quite innocent of even the most remote initiative in connection with the alliance. The statement is not in itself incredible, as to the Queen the difference of religion may, in view of the well-known relations of the two countries to each other, have seemed an obstacle which rendered such a marriage unlikely and perhaps undesirable. Then since it became a subject of serious consideration the Czar, who regard his only daughter with an affection bordering on idolatry, has made no secret of the anxiety for her future with which he contemplates the manifest growth of liberalism in England. It is, therefore, little likely that, when looking about in search of a suitable husband for his child he would have selected a prince of that stormy island, not only the inherited enemy of his country, but for centuries the dwelling place of the most dangerous and offensive and liberal tendencies. In the records of his house he would find no precedent to suggest or justify such a choice; the engagement lately formed being the first instance of a marriage alliance between the royal families of Russia and England. Still another circumstance serves to impart interest to the affair. When some months ago, all British newspapers and indeed nearly all British men were thrown into a state of quite violent excitement mingled with alarm, by the report of Muscovite encroachments in the Khivan country, the Czar, COUNT SCHOUVALOFF, the chief of the Russian Gendarmerie, who hastened to London by command of his imperial master, for the purpose of explaining the object of the Khivan expedition, was well known to be charged with another mission. One object of the Count's journey referred to the alliance now spoken of as a settled fact, and thus his visit to London was a complete success. Two royal houses, often hostile, and never particularly friendly to each other, were brought into the most intimate relations, and at the same time, English susceptibility, deeply wounded by the recent nullification of the Treaty of Paris, and still more recently and painfully touched by the threatened invasion of Khiva, was completely soothed.

It would be foolish to attach too much importance to the effect of the proposed marriage in allaying English susceptibility concerning Khiva. In fact, Russia assured England of the perfectly innocent and unambitious character of its movement against Khiva, and of the absence of any purpose to meddle with the British Empire in the East, and quite likely the other object of Count SCHOUVALOFF's mission served to confirm the sincerity of his declarations.

One thing is certain, that for some reason or other the Count's elucidation of Russian policy in Asia must have been more satisfactory and more reassuring than Russian explanations generally are. So much is evident from the perfect quiet, if not indifference with which the British press has treated the terms upon which the Czar has made peace with the Khan of Khiva. Three or four months ago those terms would have excited our British friends to a frensy of indignation and rage at Muscovite perfidy and impudence. Look at the facts. Before the Khivan expedition set out, Russia disavowed all intention of permanently occupying Khiva or of anything else than punishing the Khan for his bad conduct. Well, Russia has not exactly by annexation taken possession of the Khanate, but she has reduced the Khan to a condition of as absolute vassalage as she before imposed upon the Emir of Bokhara. He is required to pay a war indemnity of ten millions of rubels in ten years—which the Czar knows he could not pay in a century, if he lived so long, and until the money shall be paid Russian troops will garrison the city of Kungrad and will also build and occupy a strong fort on the Oxus.

BREACH OF TRUST.

Detected rascals have always been wont to take comfort and find confidence in the fancy, prevalent among rogues, that they are no worse than others, and really American rogues of the present day need be at no loss for facts which seem to corroborate their impudent assumption. Astounding disclosures of dishonesty in men before reputed honest, succeed one another in such rapid succession that people have not time to discuss and make up their minds about the circumstances and lesson of one moral horror of the kind, before their attention is called to its successor. In these financial scandals, of which the explosion of the Brooklyn Trust Company is the most recent, it is not merely a single individual who is proved to have been unworthy of the confidence placed in him. No doubt, the fall of such a man as E. S. MILLS presents in itself all the circumstances necessary to render the event most comforting to scoundrels or most demoralizing to the community. He was a person of pleasing address and attractive manners; he was full of public spirit and charity with sympathy for his kind; he was prominent in the religious organization to which he belonged, and in its labors for the general welfare; he was a lover of the fine arts and a liberal patron of their professors, and for these and all other worthy and benevolent interests, with a generous hand he dealt out the money—of other people. However, while he lived, the source of his benefactions and of the funds on which he lived so elegantly, was neither known nor suspected, and when he died—accidentally drowned, as was the surprising New York custom—the world in many of his splendid merits were eloquently described and commended to the admiration and imitation of survivors by distinguished ministers of the Gospel. Obituary notices of the deceased banker suitably eulogistic and giving edifying biographical details were also prepared and published, and if the investigation of the affairs of the Trust Company had been postponed a few weeks, doubtless a monument to his grateful memory fittingly inscribed, would have been placed over the remains to transmit to posterity the memory of such transcendant worth. Unfortunately for the edification of future generations, the books of the bank were at once examined with the result of showing that, in despite of appearances, the eminent financier had been a vulgar rogue, who for years had carried on his financial operations with money stolen from funds entrusted to his care, and had locked up the whole available capital of the concern in overdrafts and depreciated if not worthless securities.

Neither argument or invective is needed to emphasize the demoralizing effect of such a career in a commercial community. For one young man whom the awful retribution of posthumous infamy may deter from attempting a similar career, there are probably dozens or hundreds who will be tempted by its lengthened impunity and brilliant prosperity. But this influence is perhaps insignificant in comparison with the cynical contempt for human nature which such an example inspires or confirms. Unprincipled persons, whether fully developed rogues or not, of course see in it full corroboration of their belief or suspicion that notwithstanding show and professions, all others are as corrupt as themselves.

Unhappily the example of MILLS, the President, is not the only demoralizing feature in the collapse of the Brooklyn Trust Company. With MILLS were associated in the management of it a number of Directors who rank high in New York as men of honor and respectability. They are capitalists as well. In fact, the names of the men formed an essential part of the capital of the bank. They were known to the public as shrewd, capable business men, well able to take care of whatever interests they might receive in charge; so that by their connection with the Trust Company, not only their friends, rich and poor, but the general public were induced to make deposits in the concern. Equally to stockholders and depositors, the names of the Directors constituted the guarantee that funds committed to the company would be safely kept and honestly and judiciously managed. It is always so in all concerns of the class, as everybody knows, and to suppose that the Directors of the Trust Company were not aware of the confidence placed in them and of the reciprocal obligations they sustained while retaining their office, is absurd. And yet from the investigation of the management of the exploded bank it appears that the Directors acted precisely as if they had no responsibility in the business. Placed in their position to overlook, and if necessary, to control the action of the President, they allowed him to do exactly what he pleased. As if they had incurred no responsibility to others, they left the entire management in his hands, and in truth abdicated their office without informing the public of the fact. They permitted him to take worthless securities, and even to violate the charter of the company by lending money to its officers, and finally theirin difference was carried to such an extreme that they possessed no definite knowledge of the affairs or condition of the bank. At length when the circumstance became known to these Directors, that the President was using money of depositors for his own purposes, the astounding fact is established that one of the most distinguished and respectable of the gentlemen spoke of the crime as "too common an error." He denied that it was dishonest. It is safe to say that the disclosures concerning the manner in which these "respectable" Directors discharged their duty to the Brooklyn Trust Company will be as demoralizing in their influence as the conduct of MILLS.

We may, however, trust that these revelations will, in another direction, be followed by results advantageous to the public. In other cities, besides Brooklyn and New York, there are financial companies not more favored in their Directors than the Brooklyn Trust Company. Strange as the statement seems, it is no unusual thing, they say, for men, who would scorn to obtain goods under false pretenses, to permit the use of their names in a manner which thus defrauds the public. In other words, they accept the office of bank Directors, and then neglect to exercise the supervision and control which the position imposes, and when subordinates abuse their opportunities and hundreds of poor people are robbed of their hardly earned savings, the careless Directors are safe in their immaculate "respectability," not only from harm but from reproach. The worst said of them is that conscious of their own honesty they confided too much in the honesty of others. But it is no apology, and until such men incur by their carelessness the infamy they merit, failures like that of the Brooklyn Trust Company will be common.

DECLINE OF PROTESTANTISM.

A prominent clergyman of New York city, a year or two ago, startled his congregation and the public by the declaration that Protestantism is a failure, and one of the leading metropolitan journals, the *Times*, has lately discussed the "Decline of Protestantism." Its treatment of the subject seemed sincere, and quite free from the spirit of either bigotry or sensationalism. The writer apparently believed that the reasons alleged by him justified belief in the growing ascendancy of Romanism among the many religious sects of the land, and in the failure, through their own deficiencies, of the latter—collective Protestantism—to maintain the position of relative superiority to their aged antagonist once certainly held by them. The article in the *Times* has called forth letters from many correspondents who make various comments on the subject. One of them flatly denies the truth of the statement that Protestantism has declined or is declining, and he supports his denial by an appeal to statistics which seem sufficiently clear and satisfactory. It appears that in 1860, when the population of the United States was 31,443,321, the Protestant church edifices of all denominations, numbered 54,009 furnishing accommodations for rather more than nineteen millions of persons, and valued in money at $171,397,932. Between 1850 and 1860, 16,948 church edifices were built, amounting in value to nearly ninety four millions of dollars. In 1870, when the population of the United States was 38,558,-371, there were 63,084 church edifices, sufficient to accommodate 21,665,062 persons, or nearly two-thirds of the entire population, and valued in money at $354,500,000. In the decade ending in 1870 the increase of value in church property amounted to more than eighty-three millions of dollars. The lists of membership in the Protestant churches exhibit the same rapid increase of Protestant strength. In 1860 the communicants in the different Protestant churches numbered 5,730,000 and in 1870 they numbered 6,250,000, an increase of 1,500,000 in round numbers, or 150,000 communicants for each year. "*If* we reckon, as is usual, three persons for each communicant, as attached in some form to the church, there are about 20,000,000 of nominal Protestants in this country," that is, of Protestants in more or less intimate connection with churches.

In farther evidence of the vitality of Protestantism the same writer refers to the enormous sum, of money contributed by Protestants for educational purposes, buildings, endowments, &c., a form of liberality more strikingly exemplified within the last dozen years than ever before. The contributions to the causes of Home and Foreign Missions, to the Bible Society, Tract Society, etc., must not be forgotten.

The actual and increasing vitality of Protestantism is equally manifest in the more elevated and generous spirit which prevails and tends to prevail among the denominations, distinguished from one another by differences of small significance. Thus among the Presbyterian divisions the disposition to combine their resources and work together is fast becoming irresistible, and even among the subdivisions of the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal bodies the same disposition seems steadily growing more apparent. And there is no room for doubt that with the development of this spirit of harmony, in proportion as sectarian animosities and jealousies shall give place to a real exemplification of Christian charity and co-operation, the increased efficiency and power of the various Protestant denominations to impress the masses of the population will be manifest in results.

But while we would not undervalue the importance of such changes, but recognize in them ground of encouragement for the future, we do not doubt that the evil of the divisions of Protestanism is often greatly exaggerated. At any rate, it is inevitable, as without the recognition of one supreme arbiter of doctrine, men will certainly differ in their religious views. Protestants must agree to differ, and they may well with cheerfulness accept the necessity of doctrinal variations as a less evil than the absolute authority which alone would suffice to secure seeming unity of faith.

The newspaper correspondent cited above dwells wholly on denominational growth and activity in evidence of the progress and efficiency of Protestantism. But this is perhaps a rather narrow view of the subject. The truth is that almost our entire civilization is a monument of the power and beneficent influence of Protestantism. It originated and moulded our republican institutions, inspired our social system and moulds the national spirit. And whatever foul blots may deform or morbid tendencies may interfere with the working of our civil polity and social organization, the country presents the grandest spectacle of human well being ever seen on earth. All this is easily proved to be the outcome of the free spirit of Protestantism, and while a fair prospect exists of the pro onged duration of the great republic, it is premature to discuss the decline of Protestantism.

From the tenor of several of the letters which the discussion of the subject has inspired, it appears to be a common notion that Protestant ministers in their pulpit discourses pay less attention than they ought, to the Catholic controversy. It seems to be thought that they ought more frequently to discuss the errors of Papacy, and to indoctrinate their congregations in the arguments by which the Protestant faith is supported. No doubt, the liberal spirit of the age does discourage controversy of the old fashioned kind in the pulpit, and no doubt, fear of being sneered at or scorned as a bigot or as a narrow minded zealot does prevent some timid clergymen from making mention of the perpetual struggle going on, whether talked about or not, betwixt Popery and Protestantism. There ought, however, to be no delicacy on the subject, and perhaps the scruples of the most sensitive would be completely overcome by better knowledge of the utter contempt with which the consecrated defenders of Catholic dogmas look down upon their Protestant opponents. They also profess as little charity or delicacy as respect. And yet it may be better for all that neither the scorn nor the uncharitableness often either provokes response or inspires controversial attempts. Perhaps the most effectual means of defending and propagating Protestantism in this country, is the exemplification of its principles in popular government, in the voluntary support of churches, in free schools, in the equality in the wide diffusion of the facts, historical and contemporary, which illustrate the deplorable effects of priestly domination and instruction.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

However unwarranted or absurd the speculation, people will found predictions of permanently peaceful relations betwixt England and Russia on the prospective alliance by marriage of their royal houses. As to the latter fact there is no longer any room for doubt: the Duke of Edinburgh, whom loyal Englishmen delight to call their "Sailor Prince," and the only daughter of the Czar, have been betrothed and will, in due time, be married. Besides the exalted birth and position of the parties, two or three incidental circumstances render the matrimonial engagement interesting to the "average mind." In the first place, it is believed to be what they call a love-match, which originated with the persons directly concerned, without instigation or suggestion on the part of either Russian or English statesmen. Even the Queen of England and the Czar and Czarina are said to be quite innocent of even the most remote initiative in connection with the alliance. The statement is not in itself incredible, as to the Queen the difference of religion may, in view of the well-known relations of the two countries to each other, have seemed an obstacle which rendered such a marriage unlikely and perhaps undesirable. Then since it became a subject of serious consideration the Czar, who regard his only daughter with an affection bordering on idolatry, has made no secret of the anxiety for her future with which he contemplates the manifest growth of liberalism in England. It is, therefore, little likely that, when looking about in search of a suitable husband for his child he would have selected a prince of that stormy island, not only the inherited enemy of his country, but for centuries the dwelling place of the most dangerous and offensive and liberal tendencies. In the records of his house he would find no precedent to suggest or justify such a choice; the engagement lately formed being the first instance of a marriage alliance between the royal families of Russia and England. Still another circumstance serves to impart interest to the affair. When some months ago, all British newspapers and indeed nearly all British men were thrown into a state of quite violent excitement mingled with alarm, by the report of Muscovite encroachments in the Khivan country, the Czar, COUNT SCHOUVALOFF, the chief of the Russian Gendarmerie, who hastened to London by command of his imperial master, for the purpose of explaining the object of the Khivan expedition, was well known to be charged with another mission. One object of the Count's journey referred to the alliance now spoken of as a settled fact, and thus his visit to London was a complete success. Two royal houses, often hostile, and never particularly friendly to each other, were brought into the most intimate relations, and at the same time, English susceptibility, deeply wounded by the recent nullification of the Treaty of Paris, and still more recently and painfully touched by the threatened invasion of Khiva, was completely soothed.

It would be foolish to attach too much importance to the effect of the proposed marriage in allaying English susceptibility concerning Khiva. In fact, Russia assured England of the perfectly innocent and unambitious character of its movement against Khiva, and of the absence of any purpose to meddle with the British Empire in the East, and quite likely the other object of Count SCHOUVALOFF's mission served to confirm the sincerity of his declarations.

One thing is certain, that for some reason or other the Count's elucidation of Russian policy in Asia must have been more satisfactory and more reassuring than Russian explanations generally are. So much is evident from the perfect quiet, if not indifference with which the British press has treated the terms upon which the Czar has made peace with the Khan of Khiva. Three or four months ago those terms would have excited our British friends to a frensy of indignation and rage at Muscovite perfidy and impudence. Look at the facts. Before the Khivan expedition set out, Russia disavowed all intention of permanently occupying Khiva or of anything else than punishing the Khan for his bad conduct. Well, Russia has not exactly by annexation taken possession of the Khanate, but she has reduced the Khan to a condition of as absolute vassalage as she before imposed upon the Emir of Bokhara. He is required to pay a war indemnity of ten millions of rubels in ten years—which the Czar knows he could not pay in a century, if he lived so long, and until the money shall be paid Russian troops will garrison the city of Kungrad and will also build and occupy a strong fort on the Oxus.

BREACH OF TRUST.

Detected rascals have always been wont to take comfort and find confidence in the fancy, prevalent among rogues, that they are no worse than others, and really American rogues of the present day need be at no loss for facts which seem to corroborate their impudent assumption. Astounding disclosures of dishonesty in men before reputed honest, succeed one another in such rapid succession that people have not time to discuss and make up their minds about the circumstances and lesson of one moral horror of the kind, before their attention is called to its successor. In these financial scandals, of which the explosion of the Brooklyn Trust Company is the most recent, it is not merely a single individual who is proved to have been unworthy of the confidence placed in him. No doubt, the fall of such a man as E. S. MILLS presents in itself all the circumstances necessary to render the event most comforting to scoundrels or most demoralizing to the community. He was a person of pleasing address and attractive manners; he was full of public spirit and charity with sympathy for his kind; he was prominent in the religious organization to which he belonged, and in its labors for the general welfare; he was a lover of the fine arts and a liberal patron of their professors, and for these and all other worthy and benevolent interests, with a generous hand he dealt out the money—of other people. However, while he lived, the source of his benefactions and of the funds on which he lived so elegantly, was neither known nor suspected, and when he died—accidentally drowned, as was the surprising New York custom—the world in many of his splendid merits were eloquently described and commended to the admiration and imitation of survivors by distinguished ministers of the Gospel. Obituary notices of the deceased banker suitably eulogistic and giving edifying biographical details were also prepared and published, and if the investigation of the affairs of the Trust Company had been postponed a few weeks, doubtless a monument to his grateful memory fittingly inscribed, would have been placed over the remains to transmit to posterity the memory of such transcendant worth. Unfortunately for the edification of future generations, the books of the bank were at once examined with the result of showing that, in despite of appearances, the eminent financier had been a vulgar rogue, who for years had carried on his financial operations with money stolen from funds entrusted to his care, and had locked up the whole available capital of the concern in overdrafts and depreciated if not worthless securities.

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